Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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FBIS-SOV-94-160 *18 August 1994*

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Armenian, Azeri Spokesmen View Karabakh Talks

LD1808005494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1609 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Moscow, 17 Aug—The main result of the talks in Moscow on a settlement for Karabakh was an agreement on exchanging all women and children taken prisoner or hostage by the warring sides, Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloyan told ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan in Yerevan today. He had represented the Armenian Republic at the meeting in Moscow between representatives of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Nagorno-Karabakh which was held at the initiative of and with the mediation of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The deputy minister stressed that only the development of a dialogue between Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh would satisfy Armenia. As for the positions of these warring sides, it is, in his opinion, unlikely that they will become closer in the near future. Zuloyan believes that this is because of the tough stance adopted by the Azerbaijani representatives.

The Armenian side has suggested discussing border issues and the security situation on the border with Azerbaijan separately and is counting on Baku to demonstrate a different approach to these problems. However, according to him, the Azerbaijani side is raising issues that are unacceptable to the people of Karabakh.

For his part, Tofik Zulfugarov, head of the Azerbaijani delegation at the talks and a deputy foreign minister of the republic [name and title as received], expressed surprise at the stance of the Armenian side, which, he said, claims that "Armenia's involvement in the conflict is limited to just border issues." "Not only we, but the Russian mediator too, have repeatedly pointed out that such an approach means playing down the role in the conflict of Armenia, which is a full party to it." Armenia should accordingly undertake definite obligations under the agreement now being drawn up, he told ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman in Baku today.

The Azerbaijani spokesman stated that during the meeting in Moscow, seven out of the 15 points of an extensive agreement on ending the armed conflict had been agreed upon to varying degrees. He said that it constitutes a "consolidated plan of the CSCE, CIS, and Russia for its total settlement".

The deputy minister also stated that after a short interval, the sides intend to resume this intensive work. After all, besides the agreement itself a further six appendices have to be discussed. In all probability, Tofik Zulfugarov thinks, this will occur after the return of Ambassador-at-large Vladimir Kazimirov, the Russian president's special envoy, from Vienna, where he has gone to take part in a meeting of the CSCE Group of Nine countries, and also after the upcoming visit to the region by Jan Eliasson, chairman of the Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh.

Azeri Envoy to Moscow Comments

MK1808092894 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Mikhail Gerasimov under the "Transcaucasus" rubric: "Armenia-Azerbaijan Talks Near Success. However Big Political Agreement Will Be Only the First Stage on Road to Peace"]

[Text] Azerbaijan Ambassador to Moscow Ramiz Rizayev stated to the journalists at a press conference that the big political agreement to be backed by the signatures of the presidents of Azerbaijan, Russia, and Armenia, will put an end to military operations on the Armenia-Azerbaijan front. However, Mr. Rizayev pointed out, it would be simplifying thinks to think the talks are moving along swiftly and smoothly. The countless sufferings brought on by the war, and the mutual mistrust complicate this process. A cease-fire is only the first stage enabling the next stages: the disengagement of the sides, the freeing of the occupied Azerbaijani lands, the return to their homes of more than a million Azeri refugees, and the defining of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Mr. Rizayev underscored that Azerbaijan was and remains an advocate of a political settlement of the conflict. There are grounds to believe that our opponents too, proceed today from the immutable fact that further heightening of war hysteria is a criminal road fraught with uncontrollable, bloody chaos [no quotation marks as published].

Touching on how the big agreement is viewed inside Azerbaijan, the ambassador said that not everyone sees the present negotiating process in the same way. Some forces, known under the word "opposition," are trying to take advantage of the most difficult situation in the republic to promote their selfish goals and crank up the already difficult situation in the republic.

'Real Chance' for Peace Agreement

LD1708151494 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Video report by correspondent R. Safronov; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] It looks as though the six-year Karabakh war, which has claimed thousands of lives, has a real chance of ending with the conclusion of a peace agreement. Ramiz Rizayev, Azerbaijan's ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Moscow, told journalists at a news conference [in Moscow today] that as a result of the talks between the conflicting sides, which are taking place with the mediation of the Russian Ministry of

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Foreign Affairs, it is proposed to prepare a political agreement by [the end of] August. At present agreement has been reached on the reciprocal exchange of women and children who are held hostage.

Rizayev observed that the talks are proceeding normally and even in a friendly atmosphere. In line with the May accord between the defense ministers of the warring sides a cease-fire was established and on the whole it is still being observed.

[Begin Rizayev recording] Every day of peace strengthens the desire of both sides that hostilities should not be resumed. [end recording]

Rizayev observed that the question of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh will definitely be discussed, but at a slightly later date. In any case, the people of Karabakh will be guaranteed security and the opportunity for economic and cultural development.

The disagreements which have been left to one side at the current stage of the talks include the questions of establishing a demilitarized zone in and around Karabakh, turning the Lachin corridor into a truly humanitarian corridor under international control, the fate of Shusha, and the composition of peacekeeping forces. The Armenians would like to control the Lachin corridor for the first few months whereas the Azerbaijanis are insisting on international control, fearing weapons will be supplied to Karabakh. The Azerbaijani side is also proposing that troops from other countries should join the disengagement forces, as well as Russian troops. This would relieve the burden for Russia and strengthen international security guarantees.

Russian Oil, Gas Supplies to CIS Countries Down

MM1708154094 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report from the "From Our Correspondents and News Agencies" roundup: "Oil and Gas Supplies to CIS Countries Cut"]

[Text] In the period from January through July, Russia supplied CIS countries with 18 million tonnes of oil, which is 33 percent down on the same period last year, and 46 billion cubic meters of gas, which is 10 percent down.

This was announced Tuesday at the Russian Federation State Committee for Statistics. In particular, oil supplies to Ukraine fell by 21 percent, while those to Belorussia [Belarus] fell by 26 percent, and to Kazakhstan—by 59 percent. The reduction in gas exports was 8, 15, and 43 percent respectively. In the same period, oil supplies to more distant foreign countries increased by 12 percent (reaching 51 million tonnes), and those of gas by 15 percent (reaching 63 billion cubic meters.)

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 Aug

LD1808075294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0650 GMT 18 Aug 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, August 18 (ITAR-TASS)—Russian First Vice- Premier Oleg Soskovets told journalists here that the problem of corporate debts is the chief problem of the economy in transition. ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, which carries the vice-premier's interview, singles out his statement that the government is able to alleviate the tension generated by the non-payment problem after the country has gone through several stages of pulling out of the economic crisis, stabilised the situation with inflation and production slump and set in motion mechanisms of interaction. In order to solve the problem of corporate debts the government is preparing a draft decree on regulating the consumption funds of the enterprises and organisations which have accumulated overdue outstanding debts.

IZVESTIYA carries an interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev about the Bosnian settlement. The minister believes that "the party of war" both in Serbia and among the Bosnian Serbs has found itself in isolation. It is important that the Serbs themselves are becoming increasingly aware that the orientation to confrontation with the world community is a path leading into a blind alley. "it is now necessary to support Belgrade's sensible position. The choice in favour of peace made there meets the interests of the entire Serb people and permits to halt and lift the sanctions", the minister said.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI devotes a whole page to an interview with Mikhail Poltoranin, chairman of the State Duma committee on information policy and public relations. Poltoranin who had an extensive conversation with President Boris Yeltsin recently, said the country has completed in principle the dismantling of the bolshevist system which began under Mikhail Gorbachev. There are no objective conditions for Russia to slip into an abyss of despondency. Everything now depends of the will of the country's government, its professionalism and its attitude to people and action. One priority task for the government at present is to balance different interests. However, this is difficult to do because the government does not have any short- or long-term step-by-step programmes of reforming Russia. Unfortunately there is no firmness and common sense in defending the country's foreign political interests, Poltoranin said. "but our people will have no patience with those who want to handle Russia as a streetwalker".

As concerns his relations with the Russian president, house committee chairman said he and Yeltsin differed on a number of points. "I did not accept some of his personnel and structural novelties (and ensuing changes in the policy) and stepped aside not to obstruct the president's plans. Let some time pass and make all things clear," Poltoranin said.

Russian newspapers continue to watch closely the situation in and around the Chechen Republic. President Boris Yeltsin's long- awaited statement on the inadmissibility of any forcible intervention in Chechnya slightly

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eased the tension but did not dispel the fog, according to IZVESTIYA. The newspaper cites presidential aide Emil Pain as stressing that the vents in Chechnya are the republic's internal problem. The hysteria around Russia's possible military intervention in the Chechen developments is in the interests of Dzhokhar Dudayev above all, and was partially instigated by himself. Emil Pain said the federal centre's attitude to negotiations with Dudayev has not changed. There is no serious alternative to negotiations. But all of Moscow's earlier attempts at beginning negotiations with Dudayev failed.

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA carries a report from Grozny about public and individual meetings with (ex-chairman of the Russian federal legislature and Yeltsin's one-time arch-enemy) Ruslan Khasbulatov, who calls for civil disobedience to Dudayev and demands that the Chechen president step down voluntarily. Dudayev does not insist on sending Khasbulatov out of the republic and has reportedly told his retinue that the more Chechens learn about Khasbulatov's perfidious role the better. The newspaper suggests that Dudayev is simply unable to banish Khasbulatov exile: the former speaker of the Russian parliament is surrounded day and night by numerous bodyguards.

PRAVDA draws the readers' attention to the "surprisingly great interest which Lithuanian right-wingers are showing in the events in Chechnya". According to the newspaper, a powerful Chechen mafia exists in Lithuania, where it invests money in real estate and effects contract murders. "An influential Chechen lobby exists in the Sejm and Sajudis structures, according to left-wing journalists," PRAVDA says in a report from Vilnius.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA reports that the Russian special services are angered by repeated groundless accusations levelled at Russia by the west every time smuggled nuclear materials are seized there.

IZVESTIYA calls on the federal government to take maximum quarantine measures against the spread of cholera. According to the newspaper, authorities have been demonstrably inactive, which poses a threat to the lives and health of many people. Even the health minister has decided against interrupting his vacation while the cholera threat is increasing.

IZVESTIYA carries and article by a member of the party "Russian National Unity", who calls himself "special counterintelligence agent" and wonders whether Russia is likely to turn into a fascist state.

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Federation Council Seeks FBI List of Russian Mafia

MM1808111794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

["Appeal by Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council to U.S. Senate: 'We Ask You to Hand Over Russian Mafia Lists'"]

[Text] Federation Council deputies are extremely concerned about a report which appeared in the mass media to the effect that during a recent visit to Moscow FBI Director Mr. Louis Freeh made known to a high-ranking Russian Federation President's Staff official a list of Russian citizens who have accounts in American banks, where money is being paid in from large-scale criminal operations, notably drug trafficking.

In pooling our efforts in the fight against the drugs mafia, we appeal to the U.S. Senate to hand over for our examination the information which the FBI has at its disposal about the Russian mafia and lists of Russian citizens who have accounts in American banks where money is being paid in from large-scale criminal operations.

[Signed] The Russian Federation Federal Assembly Federation Council

U.S. Diplomats Seen Breaching Protocol

MM1708145194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 6

[Report by Ivan Dolgayev: "Mordovia Is Not Haiti!"]

[Text] Saransk—Since the presidency was abolished in Mordovia foreign figures have been showing intense interest in our republic. We have been visited by all manner of foreign guests—the president of Hungary, German and Italian entrepreneurs, journalists from West and East.

The other day two U.S. diplomats—Steadman Hinkley, second secretary in the political department of the American Embassy in Moscow, and Ronald Leybovich [surname as transliterated], attache in the economic department—turned up unexpectedly in the office of the Republic of Mordovia Supreme Soviet chairman.

They introduced themselves and stated, without dwelling on the diplomatic niceties, that the purpose of their visit was to study the political and economic situation in Mordovia. We have the honor, so to speak, of being "studied"!

Then the guests pressed for an audience with N.V. Biryukov, in accordance with diplomatic protocol, they said. Officials of the Supreme Soviet Presidium apparatus politely and properly reminded them that protocol had been breached when they arrived without prior notice.

...The conversation lasted 90 minutes. Arranging cooperation between the United States and Russia, between the United States and Mordovia was the least of the U.S. diplomats' concerns. What concerned them, apparently, was the situation in Mordovia: "What kind of constitution will Mordovia have?"; "What does Biryukov think of Yeltsin?"; "Will the presidency be restored in Mordovia?" And so on and so forth. Biryukov answered calmly and specifically. But he made it clear to the guests that there are diplomatic proprieties, that Russia and Mordovia have their own internal matters.

Indeed, imagine for a moment L.A. Ivanova, Russian Federation Federation Council deputy for Mordovia, during her recent visit to the United States, pressing the governor of California for his opinion of Clinton. There would have been an uproar.

The U.S. diplomats' unexpected visit to Saransk occurred soon after a big meeting of the republic's citizens which adopted a protest resolution against the Russian-American military maneuvers at the Totskoye test range. The leaders of the left-wing opposition presented the resolution to Mr. Hinkley in person. He promised to pass it to the U.S. leadership. The resolution says, among other things, that Orenburg Oblast is not Florida. One might now add to that: "And Mordovia is not Haiti!"

Military Withdrawal From Germany Nearing Completion

LD1708182794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The withdrawal from Germany of the personnel and military equipment of Russia's Western Army Group is nearing completion, head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Information and Press Department General Vladimir Kosarev told Interfax citing the Western Army Group's command.

He said that only one motorized infantry brigade will remain in Germany to participate in the official events, scheduled for August 31. After the parade, it will set out to Russia, he said. The last units of the Western Army Group are expected to arrive in Moscow's Belorusskiy railway terminal at 9:30 September 3.

Kosarev said that Russia had no problems in transporting its military equipment and personnel. He also announced that the train which will take the remaining units to Russia was ready for departure.

The Western Army Group commanders, jointly with German colleagues are preparing for the farewell events.

Kosarev said that the Western Army Group had 546,200 servicemen. The motorized infantry brigade still in Germany has 2,300 servicemen.

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Kohl Urges Cooperation To Prevent Nuclear Smuggling

LD1708180694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1659 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vorontsov]

[Text] Berlin August 17 TASS—German Chancellor Helmut Kohl called for closer cooperation between Germany and Russia to prevent the smuggling of nuclear material.

In an interview with the television company Sat-1 on Wednesday, Kohl, who is vacationing in Austria, said that this problem can be solved only if the sides share information.

The chancellor also said that following the recent incidents of nuclear material smuggling he contacted Russian President Boris Yeltsin and plans to telephone him again within the next few days to discuss the issue.

Yeltsin Ready for Talks With Kohl

LD1708181194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1723 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov]

[Text] Bonn August 17 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin replied to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's letter on Wednesday, reaffirming Russia's readiness to pursue a constructive dialogue with Germany, deputy German Government spokesman Norbert Schaefer said.

In his letter Kohl requested the Russian leader to receive his envoy, Bernd Schmidbauer, to discuss the problem of nuclear material smuggling. Yeltsin's reply has removed the last obstacles for Schmidbauer's visit to Moscow, Schaefer said.

Schmidbauer is expected to offer Moscow "all-embracing cooperation" to establish tighter control over the production and storage of nuclear materials. He will be accompanied by a group of experts who will meet with their Russian colleagues to discuss the results of the examination of the smuggled material carried out in Germany. German officials believe this will dispel all doubts about its origin.

Schaefer said that the details of Schmidbauer's visit to Moscow have yet to be worked out. He said the trip may take place this Saturday [20 August], but he did not confirm the date.

He pointed out that the problem of nuclear smuggling was discussed by the German Government today. German Interior Minister Manfred Kantler stressed that illegal trafficking in radioactive materials should be a top priority issue for German law enforcement bodies. At the same time, he called for closer international cooperation in this sphere in order to prevent possible leaks of nuclear materials from the places where they are produced or stored.

German Chancellor Helmut Kohl also called for closer cooperation between Germany and Russia to prevent the smuggling of nuclear material.

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Plutonium Smuggling Claims 'Absurd'

LD1708180094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1444 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Bonn August 17 TASS—A German parliamentarian said on Wednesday there is no doubt that the majority of the smuggled plutonium comes from Russia.

Executive secretary of the opposition Social Democratic Party of Germany (SDPG) Peter Struck told German television that if Russian authorities disagree, that means that they have apparently lost control over the nuclear material and personnel.

He said that the problem of international nuclear smuggling has turned out to be much more complicated than was expected. Struck did not rule out the possibility that the organisers of illegal trade in radioactive materials could be former employees of the Soviet and East German secret services. After all, big money is involved, he added.

Struck believes that the German Government should take urgent measures against illegal trafficking in nuclear material, including by strengthening cooperation with American and European intelligence services. He also called on the European Union to step up assistance to Russia.

At the same time, Russian Counterintelligence Service (FSK) spokesman Sergey Vasiliyev told ITAR-TASS that not a single gram of plutonium has been missing from the facilities controlled and guarded by the FSK.

Despite all that fuss in the foreign mass media about an alleged leak of radioactive materials from Russian military facilities, the Russian structures responsible for the safety of nuclear materials and facilities have not received a single inquiry on this matter, he added.

Vasilyev described as absurd allegations that representatives of the Russian law enforcement and security bodies are involved in this affair. He also brushed off statements that the operation to smuggle plutonium out of Russia was carried out by the German intelligence.

However, he admitted that the radioactive "cargo" had passed through Moscow's Sheremetyevo-2 international airport. At the same time, he pointed out that Moscow

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could be only a transit point. All the more so, because the five people who were detained in Munich are not Russian citizens, he said.

"We are ready for contacts with German law-enforcement bodies on this matter. However, I would like to stress once again that we have not received a single inquiry through official channels," he said.

No Plans for Contact With Bosnian Serbs

LD1708131594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Russia does not intend to resume contacts with the Bosnian Serbs, any contrary information does not correspond to reality, a top-ranking employee of the Russian Foreign Ministry declared in his interview with INTERFAX.

"The thing is that Russia does not want to have anything in common with the Bosnian Serbs. We do not raise this issue in this way. The point of the matter is that there is nothing to talk about for the time being: The Bosnian Serbs stubbornly decline the settlement plan developed by the Contact Group," the diplomat explained.

He said, at present, Russian diplomacy sees its main task as persuading the West of the sincerity of Belgrade's position.

Kozyrev Urges End to Serbian Sanctions

MM1708190794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by unnamed journalist; place, date not given: "Andrey Kozyrev Considers It Time To Encourage Belgrade. Russian Foreign Minister Answers IZVESTIYA's Questions"]

[Text] [IZVESTIYA] Some time has now passed since the third meeting, in Geneva, of foreign ministers engaged in seeking a settlement of the situation in Bosnia. How has the situation changed, in your opinion? What is Russian diplomacy doing?

[Kozyrev] I went to Belgrade immediately after Geneva to meet with Serbia's president, Slobodan Milosevic. It was a constructive contact. The Serbian president adopted a principled stance, resolutely supporting the peace plan and urging the Bosnian Serbs to do likewise. Belgrade has taken specific steps in that direction. All this has created a qualitatively new situation in the Bosnian settlement.

[IZVESTIYA] What does that mean in practice?

[Kozyrev] The "war party" both in Serbia and among the Bosnian Serbs now finds itself isolated. It is important that the Serbs themselves are increasingly realizing that to opt for confrontation with the international community is a dead end. It is necessary to support Belgrade's sensible stance now, since the choice in favor of peace made there is in the long-term interests of the entire Serbian people and makes it possible to start suspending and lifting sanctions.

[IZVESTIYA] What is the actual situation regarding the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia?

[Kozyrev] We are now working on two UN Security Council draft resolutions on this question. It was envisaged in Geneva that sanctions be applied against those who reject the peace plan. Belgrade, however, supports the plan, and the world community should underpin Belgrade's stance here in practical terms by, say, suspending a number of elements of the sanctions regime in force against Yugoslavia.

[IZVESTIYA] I understand there have been attempts to link the question of lifting the sanctions to a solution of the problem of Serbian Krajina in Croatia. What is Russia's approach to this problem?

[Kozyrev] The Security Council sanctions resolutions were passed only in connection with the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a resolution of the Bosnian conflict should therefore result in their lifting. The problem of Krajina certainly must find a solution within the broader context of a Yugoslav settlement, and we are actively working in that direction. The adoption of a separate resolution on that topic is possible.

[IZVESTIYA] The Bosnian Serbs consider that the peace plan places them in an unequal position. Do you agree?

[Kozyrev] That is not so. From the outset we sought to ensure and succeeded in ensuring that in all drafts of the state system of Bosnia and Herzegovina the Serbs enjoy equal status with the other peoples of the republic. As early as the first meeting in Geneva the foreign ministers of Russia, the United States, and the EU agreed that the Union of Bosnia and Herzegovina be formed of two equal state formations—Croats and Bosnian Muslims, on the one hand, and Bosnian Serbs, on the other. It is on this basis that the Contact Group has worked, and equal opportunity for the constituent parts of the Union to join a confederation with neighboring states is envisaged.

[IZVESTIYA] Why does the West treat Slobodan Milosevic's new stance in a pretty cool and skeptical manner?

[Kozyrev] Western politician and journalists have developed stereotypes which they find it difficult to break. That is what has happened in respect of Milosevic.

[IZVESTIYA] And how are the Croats and Muslims behaving?

[Kozyrev] Their line of conduct is perplexing. It seems that, instead of moving toward an agreement on a cessation of hostilities after giving their assent to the peace plan, they have felt themselves entitled to embark on active offensive operations on the battlefield. The Sarajevo leadership is thereby playing into the hands of

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the extremists in the Bosnian Serb leadership. We insist that such provocative actions cease and receive a due assessment from UN representatives.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you regard the Americans' statement on the possible lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia?

[Kozyrev] At the last meeting in Geneva we noted that movement in that direction would accelerate if the Bosnian Serbs continued to reject the peace plan. But there was at the same time appreciation that lifting the embargo is an extreme and very undesirable measure which could have a whole series of grave consequences, one of which is the curtailing of the UN peacemaking operation in Bosnia.

Raising that question now is scarcely conducive to the search for political means of settling the conflict. It will rather lead to even greater radicalization of the supporters of a war until victory on all the sides in the conflict.

[IZVESTIYA] How do you explain the fact that a number of Russian newspapers have started actively extolling Radovan Karadzic's "steadfastness" and criticizing Slobodan Milosevic?

[Kozyrev] Such a stance completely exposes those who are bent on implacable confrontation, including confrontation on the internal political plane. These circles "stuck" anti-Serb labels on Russian foreign policy. But now, when the leadership of Serbia itself has embarked on a constructive path leading to peace, our national patriots have sided unhesitatingly with those in the Bosnian Serb leadership who are ready to risk the entire Serb people's future for misunderstood national interests. I should like to know what lofty ideas the Russian "patriots" employ to justify their stance now.

Appreciation for FRY 'Radical Shifts' Urged

LD1708174094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature, by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[Text] So far Russia has no intention of resuming contacts with the Bosnian Serbs. All reports to the contrary conflict with the truth, a senior member of Russia's Foreign Ministry told Interfax on Wednesday.

According to him, "it's not that Russia does not want to have anything to do with the Bosnian Serbs." "The trouble is that at present we simply have nothing to speak about with them: the Bosnian Serbs stubbornly refuse to accept the plan for resolving the conflict worked out by the Contact Group," he explained.

As Interfax's interviewee said, at present Russian diplomacy views the need to convince the West that the new Yugoslavia is sincere in its attitude, as one of its major tasks. "Belgrade not only backed the Contact Group's plan, but also unilaterally imposed sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs," he said. "Moscow believes that such radical shifts should be duly appreciated by the world community."

Nevertheless Interfax's interviewee noted that "Western doubts could be dispelled by Belgrade's consent to the deployment of international observers along Yugoslavia's border with Bosnia." "In this case Belgrade's stand would be consistent and impeccable. However it's necessary to understand Serbia's President, Slobodan Milosevic: he has to reckon with public opinion, which is wary of the very idea of international monitoring," he said.

Moscow Not Opposed to Iran's Mediation in Karabakh

LD1708173894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1404 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[Text] Moscow has nothing against Iran's joining the efforts to settle the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, but views it as unlikely, a senior member of the Russian Foreign Ministry told Interfax.

Two years ago, he noted, Tehran already tried to act as a mediator, together with Russia too. "However later the Iranians realized that their endeavors yielded no results, and so now they confine themselves to just stating that they are ready to go on with them," the diplomat pointed out.

According to him, "a resumption of Iranian mediation depends on the stand taken by Tehran itself, and on the attitudes of Baku and Yerevan." "Contrary to what happened in the recent past, today relations between the three countries develop evenly enough," the diplomat said. "As for the Iranian leadership itself, there is no unanimity in it as to the ways and means of resolving the conflict in Karabakh."

"A group of pragmatics in the leadership oriented to the country's president are trying to maintain some balance in the attitudes to Yerevan and Baku. As for the radical-minded circles, they are in favor of their coreligionists, the Azeris," Interfax's interviewee said.

Such discrepancies are prompted by the "purely ethnic aspects of the leadership itself, which includes many ethnic Azeris."

According to the diplomat, "Russia has a more global approach to the ways to reach a settlement in Nagorno-Karabakh." "Moscow is more inclined toward individual endeavors, which must not hinder the collective efforts launched in the framework of the CSCE," the

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diplomat noted. "For their part, the Iranians are in favor of regional steps; they have less confidence in the potentialities of the CSCE."

"Nevertheless it's a fact that both Iran and Russia are objectively, because of their geographical situation, interested in resolving the Karabakh crisis," Interfax's interviewee pointed out.

Further on Russian-Moldovan Cooperation Agreement

LD1708183494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Prime Ministers of Russia and Moldova Viktor Chernomyrdin and Andrei Sangheli have ended talks in Moscow by signing a framework agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation. This will serve as the basis for signing other co-operation agreements in areas such as tourism, cinematography, television and the press.

Speaking afterwards, Chernomyrdin expressed satisfaction over the talks. He spoke of steady progress in political relations between the two countries describing as technicality whatever question arose at the moment.

Chernomyrdin said that bilateral trade would increase and one other agreement would be signed on Wednesday to provide a new credit to Kishinev [Chisinau] for 1995.

For his part, Sangheli made it clear the question was one of a Rbl 70 billion credit to help Moldova clear its bill for fuel imports from Russia. He said this would help service the 1993 debt, but there was no increase in Kishinev's debt last year.

It is now known that Moldova has asked Moscow for a total of Rbl 150 billion credit, a request that Russia has agreed to oblige by allocating the first tranche of Rbl 70 billion so far.

On Tuesday, Sangheli at a meeting with Deputy Speaker of the Federation Council (the upper house of parliament) Valerian Viktorov said he wanted to ask for a Rbl 150-200 billion credit from Russia.

He also wanted to brief Chernomyrdin about the situation in Transdniestria.

Sangheli said that a Russian envoy was already in the region and the first draft of an agreement on the status of Transdniestria would be ready by the end of next month. He said it would be similar to the law on the mainly Gagauz region in the south which the Moldovan parliament had approved in its first reading.

Moldovan Premier Views 14th Army, Lebed

LD1708214094 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1800 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Now, other talks which were also held in Moscow on Wednesday, the Russian-Moldavian [Moldovan] talks. The result of the talks was an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation signed by Viktor Chernomyrdin and his Kishinev [Chisinau] counterpart Andrey Sangheli. Our correspondent Anton Grishin reports.

[Grishin] On the same day, after finalizing in working groups, the Russian and Moldavian delegations signed an agreement on allocating Moldavia a credit of 70 billion rubles for 1994. The whole amount will be used to pay for last year's deliveries of Russian gas, the Moldavian prime minister said. Russia and Moldavia have confirmed their intention to build bilateral cooperation on the conditions stipulated by treaties signed within the CIS framework.

At the same time Viktor Chernomyrdin noted with satisfaction that a high level of economic ties has had a most positive effect on political relations between Moscow and Kishinev. He said, however, that some lack of coordination of technical aspects has been impeding relations. Andrey Sangheli echoed him.

[Begin Sangheli recording] We simply need to do more work at ministerial and committee level on both sides so that fewer issues remain to be resolved at this high level, since we are simply losing time. [end recording]

[Grishin] Since the end of the 10th round of the Russian-Moldavian talks the question of the 14th Army and its commander Aleksandr Lebed has been a major topic of discussion. Therefore, it is not surprising that your correspondent, remembering the strained relations between Moldavian politicians and the Russian general, asked the Moldavian prime minister what official Kishinev thinks of Lebed's role in the settlement of the Dniester conflict. Here is the opinion of Andrey Sangheli.

[Begin Sangheli recording] We, the republic's leadership and I personally in the first place, have had no contact whatsoever with General Lebed and are not making a tragedy of this. At the time he fulfilled his business in the republic and we assess his role positively overall, in spite of the fact that there have been some quirks—I will put it this way. We do not have any particular complaints. If there are any complaints, we always manage to resolve them in the government. [end recording]

NATO Official Supports Russian Troops in Moldova

AU1608155594 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/8/1994— The Moldovan Armed Forces are organized and structured quite rational, but an increase in its contingents would be irrational, as it will require significant expenses that are currently more necessary for the Moldovan economic sector, stated today John Waters, deputy commander of the NATO Forces in Europe, during a press conference on the occasion of conclusion of his visit to Moldova.

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BASA asked him to comment on Russia's claims to be granted special empowerment within the "Partnership for Peace" program in particular on the territory of the former Soviet republics. He stated that Russia's involvement in settling the Bosnian conflict proves that it could be engaged in peace keeping missions on the territory of other states. Referring to the Russian peacekeeping forces' presence in Moldova, Waters stated that "only the Moldovan Government and Parliament can make decisions in this regard."

According to the United States, Russian and Moldovan media, Chisinau and Moscow have delivered MiG-29 planes and pilots to South Yemen. Asked if the NATO program adherents can supply weapons and mercenaries in the conflict zones as it happened in the South Yemen conflict, John Waters pointed out that he does not have concrete information in this area but as the "Partnership for Peace" is not a military alliance it can do nothing but resort to moral pressure.

Last Russian Tanks Withdrawn From Estonia

LD1708130994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] On Wednesday a large amphibious warfare ship moved out the last 10 tanks, T-72, assigned to the Russian 144th Motor Rifle Division from the Estonian port of Paldiski. This is the last Russian military unit remaining on the republic's territory.

The Estonian Defense Ministry says there are about 200 Russian servicemen in the republic predominantly employed in loading and dispatching military cargo.

Trains with Russia's military property are departing from Estonia; the last train is scheduled to leave the republic on August 28. The Defense Ministry reminded INTERFAX that the naval base in Tallinn had already been dismantled. Its facilities are being handed over to the Estonian authorities.

In accordance with the treaty signed by Russian and Estonian Presidents Boris Yeltsin and Lennart Meri in Moscow this July, the withdrawal of Russian troops is to be completed before August 31.

According to Russian servicemen, they will meet this schedule.

On Wednesday Estonia announced that on August 31 and September 1 the republic will conduct ceremonies marking the withdrawal of Russian forces. At the same time the Estonian press draws attention to the fact that the agreement on Russian troop withdrawal from Estonian has never been ratified by either the Estonian or Russian parliaments.

Border Demarcation With Estonia 'Forced Measure'

LD1708180994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1523 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Kondratenko]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 17 TASS—Russia continues preparations for the demarcation of the state border with Estonia. The second stage of the operation started in the Leningrad region on Wednesday.

The Leningrad region leaders have instructed the administrations of the Slantsiy and Kingisepp border districts and the Ivangorod city authorities to allot the land for border installations by October 1, 1994.

The 466-kilometer border will pass through woods and marshlands. A total of 1,000 concrete posts will be installed along the border. The land section of the border will be designated by December 31, 1994. The sections that will pass through the Pskov and Chudskoye lakes will be determined next spring.

Russia has a 60,932.8 kilometer border, including 1,025 kilometers with the Baltic states, 1,100 kilometers with Byelorussia [Belarus], 600 kilometers with Ukraine, 900 kilometers with Georgia and 6,500 kilometers with Kazakhstan.

Major-General Aleksey Kozhevnikov, head of the Federal Border Service Department for International Agreements, said that the unilateral demarcation of the border with Estonia is a forced measure. He pointed out that Estonia has become a hub of illegal arms and contraband smuggling into Russia. Armed smugglers and nationalist criminal gangs terrorised the local population and attacked border posts. One border guard was killed in one such attack, he said.

The general said that the work is moving at a good pace and that the situation in the area is "normal."

Official Explains Demarcation

LD1708162594 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1500 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Maj. Gen. Aleksey Kozhevnikov, commander of international agreements' department of the Russian border troops, has said that the demarcation of the Russian-Estonian border does not mean defining it.

Kozhevnikov said, according to international law, the current work is of a rather different nature. The Russian border troops are working according to Yeltsin's decree on unilateral demarcation of the Russian-Estonian state border, which is not in breach of international norms. Kozhevnikov said that the current process leaves an opportunity for the sides to resolve the border issue through negotiations.

According to Kozhevnikov, the unilateral demarcation of the state border is a measure forced by the contraband as Estonia [words indistinct] through which arms and other contraband are smuggled to Russia.

Cuban Embassy Criticizes Daily's 'Disrespect'

MM1808085794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 5

[Letter from the Cuban Embassy in the Russian Federation; date not given: "IZVESTIYA Correspondent Using F. Castro As a Tool"]

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[Text] The Cuban Embassy in the Russian Federation has the honor to address the IZVESTIYA Editorial Office and inform it of the following:

We believe that Yevgeniy Bay's article "A Little More Castro and There Will Be No Cubans in Cuba," published in issue No. 151 of your newspaper on 10 August this year, amounts to the utmost disrespect for the Cuban Government and its president. Yevgeniy Bay's articles on Cuba typically lack one of the qualities of civilized journalism—truthfulness and respectful language.

Can the journalist tell the newspaper's many readers why the Cuban Government—despite the shortcomings which some ascribe to it—nonetheless enjoys undoubted popular support? Why do millions of Cuban citizens spontaneously express their support for the government and the president?

On the other hand, it seems as though Yevgeniy Bay is unaware of the Russian Government's political and economic interest in maintaining relations with Cuba on the basis of mutual advantage and mutual respect. Why is he using the Cuban Government and Fidel Castro as tools to express his disagreement with Russian foreign policy line on Cuba?

The Cuban Embassy would thank you to publish this letter and takes this opportunity to assure the IZVESTIYA Editorial Office of its respect.

[signed] The Cuban Embassy in the Russian Federation

Pacific Commander Warns Japanese Against Poaching

LD1708141394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0819 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[Excerpts] Vladivostok, 17 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The Russian border guards acted in strict accordance with international norms of the law of the sea and the laws of the Russian Federation when they arrested a Japanese schooner which was poaching in Russian territorial waters and halted its illegal activities by operating a fire-for-effect policy, said Lieutenant-General Vitaliy Sedykh, commander of the Pacific Ocean border district, at a news conference today. [passage omitted]

Lt. Gen. Vitaliy Sedykh said the Russian border guards will continue to resolutely stop any violations of the Russian border. At the same time, they do not want bloodshed or unnecessary loss of life but the poachers themselves are forcing this to happen. Between 1-14 August of this year the border guards detained five Japanese vessels and 45 crew members for illegal fishing. Some of these vessels were confiscated, the culprits were arrested, and they are receiving punishment on Russian territory.

The commander stressed in particular that he tried to reach understanding with the Japanese side about the joint patrolling of the sea border between Russia and Japan and halting illegal fishing. The neighbors presented their vessels for joint operations, but it appears that the Japanese poachers are operating with the tacit consent of their commanders since all the illegal actions are happening before their very eyes.

From 20 August to 30 September the border guards will take part in the third stage of Operation "Putina". Vitaliy Sedykh expressed hope that there will be no repeat of incidents such as the one which occurred on 15 August.

Japan Tells Fishermen To Respect Russian Border

LD1808092494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Varlamov]

[Text] Tokyo August 18 TASS—Authorities of the Japanese island of Hokkaido have ordered local fishing cooperatives not to violate the border of the Russian zone off the Kurile Islands where a number of serious incidents occurred lately, ITAR-TASS learned from sources in the Hokkaido governor's office and the city of Namuro, the Japanese fishing centre closest to Russian territory.

120 people, including representatives of Namuro's nine fishing and crab-collecting cartels were summoned to their common board building along with the owners of 35 trawlers assigned to the port, their captains and fishing specialists to be taken to task by a prefecture's official, Isao Sakashita, who said that at a time when the administration of Russia's South-Kurile region had come up with a proposal to organise fishing for marine resources on a commercial basis, it was "inappropriate to become objects of incidents with Russian border guards".

The fishermen were told not to leave the fishing areas assigned under their licences and to discuss the routes and fishing areas with the crews before leaving the port in order to avoid entering the Russian zone.

Sources in the cooperative Nemuro Giokio told TASS by telephone that the Japanese audience heard the reprimand with understanding and promised to obey the order.

Japanese Fishermen Given 15-Month Prison Term

LD1808110794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0919 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo August 18 TASS—Three captains of the Japanese trawlers arrested in Russian territorial waters

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of the southern Kurile Islands last February have been sentenced to 15 months in the Russian prison each, the Japanese Foreign Ministry announced.

The Russian court on the Shikotan island handed down the sentences after a trial of Masanori Sawada, 60, Kinzo Kubota, 52, and Noriaki Terasava, 50, all of them residents of Hokkaido, the Japanese island in close proximity to Russian territory.

The crews of the boats were allowed to return home some time ago and the fishing boats, which violated Russian borders under the now- convicted captains, will soon be transferred to Japanese authorities.

According to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, nine Japanese fishermen are now held in custody on Russian territory after they were detained by Russian border guards for poaching in Russian territorial waters off the southern Kurile islands.

Russia To Offer DPRK Nuclear Reactor Equipment

LD1708131194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1114 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Russia is ready to help settle North Korea's nuclear problem by supplying equipment and technology to Pyongyang to replace graphite moderated reactors for light water ones, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov said in an interview with Interfax.

He said that "Moscow has informed the United States and North Korea of its readiness to do this." "North Korea has already officially informed Russia of its interest in receiving our technical assistance in light water nuclear reactors," Panov stressed.

He said, "Russia has already acquired certain experience in cooperation with North Korea in the nuclear field." "Our engineers and scientists have already examined a site for building a nuclear power station and have prepared a feasibility study," Panov said.

He also said Moscow is ready "to consider the issue on reprocessing spent fuel from the North Korean nuclear power stations at Russian enterprises." "We see no problems if an international fund or consortium guarantees financing," Panov noted.

MiG-29 Planes To Be Delivered to Malaysia

LD1708131994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1148 GMT 17 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow 17 Aug (TASS)—Russia's First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets today said the intergovernmental contract to deliver Russian-made MiG-29 fighter planes to Malaysia will be fulfilled despite delays with funding.

The vice-premier was speaking at today's meeting of the Governmental Commission on Military-Technical Cooperation which discussed problems relating to the realisation of this major contract signed by Oleg Soskovets during his visit to the Malaysian capital in June.

The Commission considered options of funding the project through a bank in Singapore, the Central Bank of Russia or a system of commercial banks, including European. The contract is valued at 560 million U.S dollars. Malaysia is prepared to pay 65 percent of the required amount of money in advance.

Under the contract, Russia is to deliver the first batch of the eighteen modified fighter planes to the Malaysian Air Force next year. The modification version of the Russian MiG-29 fighter is expected to have an engine with a greater resource and a new generation onboard equipment.

According to representatives of the defence enterprises participating in the project, the contract with Malaysia is a breakthrough in the development of Russian arms exports, as it will help Russia maintain 500 thousand jobs in the industry for the next five years.

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Political Issues

Counterintelligence Chief Expects No 'Cataclysm'

LD1808104994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0722 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Palariya]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Sergey Stepashin, director of Russia's Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK], believes there is no reason to expect the political cataclysms which certain opposition leaders in the country are predicting for this fall. In an exclusive interview with ITAR-TASS, he said that in spite of the complex socioeconomic situation in a number of regions the situation in Russia is, on the whole, stable and the FSK is not apprehensive about it.

The FSK director considers that counterintelligence should not be viewed outside politics, which is one of the effective elements for defending the state system. "We openly support the existing authorities, as represented by the new Russian Constitution and the head of state," the 42-year-old lieutenant-general, who has just returned from a working visit to Ryazan, stressed.

In Ryazan the head of Russian counterintelligence, who is also a member of the Security Council, familiarized himself with the operational situation and met with the local leadership and members of the public, setting out his view of processes taking place in the country.

Sergey Stepashin said the FSK does not get involved with political activities in any way but merely carries out its official duties. In this context and in light of the actual situation on the ground it takes the necessary legal measures in close coordination with the relevant law enforcement agencies.

The FSK director believes that the commitment of counterintelligence personnel to political stability in the country and their high professional standards help to strengthen the foundations of statehood. They make it possible to resolve key issues affecting Russia's state security at the least cost and in good time.

Rallies Planned To Mark Aug Coup Anniversary

LD1708180894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The Moscow city authorities have sanctioned several opposition demonstrations to mark the anniversary of the August 1991 coup attempt.

Officials in the mayor's office told Interfax that the Working Moscow movement will hold a rally outside the general staff building on Arbat Square from 16:00 to 20:00 on August 19. The expected attendance is 500 people. Organizers say the participants will call for the restoration of the USSR, protest the presence of foreign troops in Russia and call for the cancelation of the Russian-American military exercise in the Totsk testing ground.

Viktor Anpilov, leader of the Russian Communist Workers' Party (RCWP) and the Working Moscow movement, is one of the organizers of the event.

The RCWP Moscow Committee will stage a rally of 600 at the foot of the monument to Karl Marx "to protect Lenin's tomb and to protest the presence of foreign troops on Russian soil" at 11:00 to 13:30 on August 21.

On the same day a rally will be held on Teatralnaya Square from 19:00 to 22:00. The RCWP, Working Russia, Working Moscow, the Russian Communist Party, the Russian Communist League, the Russian Party of Communists and the League of Officers will assemble a maximum of 30,000 people under the slogans of "Unity Yes, Treason No."

The mayor's office also said that a musical festival called "Rock on the Barricades" will be held in the framework of the celebrations organized by the democratic forces. It will be staged on Konyushkovskaya St. At the side of the mayor's office, 36 Novy Arbat rather than on Vasilyevsky Spusk off Red Square.

Varennikov Acquittal Seen as Victory

MM1808084794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 16 Aug 94 p 5

[Report by Yuriy Feofanov: "Politics Once Again Prevails Over Law"]

[Text] The verdict reached by the Russian Federation Supreme Court Collegium did not put an end to the case of the State Committee for the State of Emergency [SCSE]. Rather it left things open. Not because the acquittal of General Varennikov legally does not mean the acquittal of all the August rebels. And not because the General Prosecutor's Office seemingly intends to protest this verdict. The case is not at an end if only because scope for creativity is opening up for extremist parties and movements: It turns out that attempted coups d'etat can be acquitted in law.

The plot aimed at taking power in August 1991, i.e. the criminal events, was shown on television worldwide. (Just like the criminal events of October 1993). Thus, the question was just whether these obvious events contain a corpus delicti. The Military Collegium's verdict answered unequivocally that they do not. But this means that it is permissible to carry out coups d'etat; if you succeed, your chest is bedecked with crosses; if you fail, there is nothing terrible in that, heads will not roll. Officially only one general, who was not a member of the SCSE, has been acquitted. The other rebels (both those of August and October) were amnestied: They accepted the amnesty, thus confirming their guilt. However, the corollary of Gen. Varennikov's acquittal has been to make them all innocent, as it were.

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What is more, immediately after his acquittal the general said that the SCSE plotters had acted in an undistinguished manner: There was no need to endlessly run "Swan Lake" on the television but, as the general said, "there should have been explanations," explanations as to the noble aims of the plot. A subtle statement; obviously the trial gave the general a grounding in the law. But let us ponder the significance of "explanations" when the country's capital is looking down the barrels of tank guns, the legitimate head of state is isolated, and a curfew has been introduced. Is there not something more weighty and more characteristic of a military man behind the word "explanation"—the need to act? And is there not some strategic plan for future contenders for power lurking in all this? I am quite willing to entertain the idea that the acquitted general did not have such malicious intentions. But others might see it differently.

After the verdict the presiding justice in the Varennikov trial also issued a statement. He insistently stressed that the Military Collegium's acquittal is not political but solely criminal-legal in nature. If the judge is not being devious, if he is convinced of this, it looks like the conversion story where people assemble sewing machines but machineguns are what appear. Likewise the justices have failed to separate the law from politics.

The SCSE trial has been explicitly political from the very outset. Primarily owing to the prosecutors' hopeless, self-seeking actions, about which more than enough has been written. Of course the charge of treason did not hold water, but this was the article doggedly pushed by the prosecuting authorities. Obviously the plotters' actions should have been defined some other way. But pretending that nothing happened at all 19-21 August 1991 fits in badly with legal consciousness. But it fits in well with extremist political consciousness.

The state prosecutor's refusal to charge Gen. Varennikov with treason, refusal to charge him at all is quite understandable. And in these circumstances you would have thought it quite logical legally and in terms of common sense to discontinue the case. Since there were no charges why continue the trial? Moreover, Article 6 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, enabling a court to discontinue criminal proceedings "as a result of a change of situation" and also if a "person ceases to be a public danger," is quite applicable. Discontinuing the case would not at least have thrown down a challenge to public opinion. Whereas that is precisely what the general's acquittal has done. Indeed, had the case been discontinued without an acquittal the court could have been accused of "washing its hands" of it. Well, the position of Pontius Pilate is not so wrong in some circumstances. Let history judge.

Russian Communities Chairman Hits Yeltsin Edict

MM1708143494 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 16 Aug 94 p 2

[Article by Dmitriy Rogozin, Congress of Russian Communities Executive Committee chairman, under the rubric "In Lieu of a Review": "Russian Emigres: 'Basic Guidelines'"]

[Text] The edict of Russian Federation President B.N. Yeltsin "On the Basic Guidelines of Russian Federation State Policy on Compatriots Resident Abroad" differs significantly from the previous incomprehensible documents prepared by various Russian Federation departments, which, in particular, contained such sentences as, for example: "In cases of gross violations of compatriots' rights, the Russian Federation Government may, after repeated warnings, resort to measures of diplomatic action." Such directives only testified to the lack of political will on the part of officials who are obliged by the Russian Constitution to protect the rights of Russians irrespective of how far they are outside the Russian Federation's borders.

Unfortunately, regardless of their more assured tenor, the president's present edict and the corresponding decree by the Russian Federation Government nevertheless inherited certain traits of starry-eyed idealism, and occasionally also ambiguity of expression.

For example, Article 13 of the Russian Federation Government Decree, which stipulates that the organs of power are tasked with seeking "...an agreement on questions of citizenship," does not clarify what kind of citizenship Russia would want for its compatriots abroad: Its own, that is, Russian, or a single CIS citizenship, or, perhaps, dual or triple citizenship? Ambiguities of this kind could have fateful consequences for the 25 million ethnic Russians in the countries of the "near abroad."

Concern is also prompted by assertions that Russia's strategic line is "support for our compatriots' voluntary integration into the political, social, and economic life of the new independent states and adaptation to local culture"—that is, it is a question of Russia's desire that Russians become assimilated as quickly as possible among the representatives of so-called indigenous peoples of the new sovereign states. But this is just another surrender and amounts, in effect, to disregard for the interests of those Russians who continue to consider themselves "unwilling foreigners" and do not see themselves outside Russia. To my mind, it would be more appropriate to formulate (not just on paper but also in people's understanding) the kind of state strategy line which would aim to take into consideration the requirements of unconditional protection of our compatriots within the framework of the general task of strengthening Russia's national security within the sphere of its vital interests, which, incidentally, encompasses a much more extensive territory than the lands of the former USSR.

Passages such as these also require clarification: "In the event of conflict situations arising in any part of the former USSR that endanger the life or well-being of our compatriots, the Russian state should be ready for such developments." One wonders why the government cannot state clearly that it is ready to deploy the entire armory of measures of a political, economic, diplomatic, and military nature for the protection and possible

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evacuation of our compatriots. When it is a matter of life or death for our compatriots and Russian Federation citizens, leaving things unsaid in the text of such documents is simply in appropriate.

A final point. The draft of the president's edict lacks the most important thing: A definition of the term "compatriots" and a list of their rights and duties. Without such a definition the document becomes futile. Incidentally, all these considerations are formulated clearly and precisely in the documents of the Congress of Russian Communities, which were submitted to Russian state bodies as far back as January 1994.

While we hope that these fundamental considerations of the Russian communities themselves will be reflected in additions to or a new version of the the president's edict, we are nevertheless content with the fact that the Russian authorities are beginning to address themselves in earnest to the question of real protection for the millions of representatives of Russian and other peoples of the former USSR who, despite all difficulties, continue to regard themselves as Russians.

Social Democrats Claim 'Centrist' Stance

MM1708160994 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Dmitriy Orlov: "Social Democrats Unite. Without Rutskoy"]

[Text] The latest statements made in the provinces by the Russian Federation's former vice president have seriously alarmed not only and not so much the radical reformers as his immediate comrades-in-arms. Vasiliy Lipitskiy, chairman of the Board of the Russian Social Democratic People's Party [RSDPP], and Pavel Kudyukin, a leader of the emerging Russian Social Democratic Union [RSDU], told this to journalists from leading Russian newspapers and news agencies during a meeting at the Arbat Hotel. "Rutskoy has withdrawn from the party's activity and is forming 'Derzhava' [State, Power], a movement of dubious orientation whose activity I view skeptically," Lipitskiy said. "I hope that the congress of social democratic forces will take place without Rutskoy," Kudyukin echoed him.

While Mr. Rutskoy is subjugating the Russian provinces with fiery speeches, there is an obvious consolidation taking place within the social democratic camp he has left behind. According to Kudyukin, the RSDU, whose constituent congress is scheduled for the fall, will comprise the RSDPP, the Labor Party, the Russian Social Democratic Center, the Russian Green Party, the "United Social Democrats" faction of the Social Democratic Party of Russia [SDPR], the "Young Social Democrats," and "New Left." It is still hard to judge the strength of the new left-wing association, but the fact that it does not include the bulk of the SDPR and the Socialist Party of the Working People makes it possible to doubt the new bloc's social base.

Speaking about his allies, Vasiliy Lipitskiy categorically rejected the possibility of cooperating with the Communist Party of the Russian Federation and radical-nationalist organizations. "The leader of the RSDPP assessed "Accord for Russia" as an ineffective and, obviously, short-lived conglomeration. "There is not too wide a choice of allies in the regions," he noted, "but even there we will not make contact with the radicals." Contrary to Rutskoy's well-known statements regarding the impossibility of centrism in the prevailing situation, Lipitskiy (for the umpteenth time!) described the—now social democratic—bloc he is organizing as centrist. According to analysts, this view is wrong: It is the policy of the president and the government, based on moderate sentiments and expectations, that is currently at the center of the political spectrum.

Lipitskiy may have been the first opposition leader to point to the positive aspects of the government's economic and political course, by assessing it as "real stabilization." The deputy called on the country's political forces to display moderation. "Any social explosion will only have destructive results," he pointed out. Forecasting the situation this coming fall, the leader of the RSDPP told your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent that, given a largely calm situation in the country, the main focal points of tension may be the demands made by agrarians and the military-industrial complex, which will not, however, develop into mass movements.

Economic Issues

Soskovets on Commission for Non-Payment of Debt

LD1708194094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] One of the most acute problems confronting the Russian economy is the problem of non-payments. To date, the debt of enterprises to one another totals 90 trillion rubles. According to the special government Commission for the Non-Payment Crisis, a third of this amount is stuck in commercial banks. The commission's chairman [Oleg Soskovets, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers] gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent today.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent Natalya Chernyshova] Oleg Nikolayevich, non-payments between enterprises have virtually paralyzed the national economy. Nearly 50 percent of enterprises have come to a halt. The question has now assumed nationwide proportions. You have been appointed chairman of the Commission for Non-Payments. Have you managed to find the magic wand that could help solve this insoluble question?

[Soskovets] First, the commission has prepared about 24 different legislative bills, including draft laws, presidential decrees and government resolutions which should

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make it possible for economic entities to decide where they stand with regard to their outstanding payments. [end recording]

Wage Delays Remain; Fewer Production Halts

MK1708114894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Rybak under the "Industry" rubric: "Fewer Enterprises Halted Production in July, but Wage Delays Did Not Diminish"]

[Text] The key problems facing Russian enterprises, ones related to the work of their personnel, changed somewhat last year. Delays in paying wages to employees continue, but the situation regarding lengthy halts in production has improved, data of the Russian Federation State Statistics Committee suggest.

The number of enterprises where employees have not been paid wages went up by 800 to reach 34,000 last month. The debt to the personnel was estimated at 3,797.3 billion rubles. At the same time, workers have not been paid around half their June wages. Wages delayed for more than a month—1,870.5 billion rubles—account for nearly half the total amount.

According to the data, employees of state-run enterprises have been most hit by the non-payment of wages. A total of 41 percent of debtor enterprises belong precisely to this form of ownership, mixed-ownership enterprises account for 34 percent, and a quarter of the overall number of firms that do not pay wages are privately owned.

The problem of wage delays has affected industry first and foremost. Industrial enterprises owed their employees 2,092.3 billion rubles as of 1 August. They are followed by construction organizations (565.5 billion) and agricultural enterprises (763.3 billion). At the same time, it is employees of engineering plants, the industry that has born the brunt of the current production slump, who suffer most.

Still, according to the Statistics Committee data, the situation with regard to production halts at Russian plants and factories has been improving since last month. For instance, the number of enterprises which stood idle longer than one shift decreased somewhat this month. In July, a total of 4,844 plants stood idle against 4,892 in June. Engineering and metal-working enterprises accounted for two-thirds of the total. The main reasons for the idle time are sales problems and also a shortage of raw materials (approximately one-third of all instances of work stoppages).

Yeltsin Edicts on Taxes, Credit Viewed

MM1708143994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by Igor Karpenko: "President's Edicts Put Credit and Tax Legislation in Order"]

[Text] President B. Yeltsin's new package of economic edicts is given over to the problems of credit policy and to bringing existing tax legislation into line with real life.

There is a severe lack of money for conversion and investments in Russia. Preferential state credits for these purposes amounted to just 700 billion rubles [R] in the first quarter. In the second quarter enterprises have to this day not received anything at all—the Central Bank has refused to issue money. Indeed, it had no choice: These funds are provided for in the 1994 budget, but nobody thought to define the procedure for their issue and the interest rate for credits. This has cost enterprises dear, as they have been forced either to "freeze" conversion and investment programs or to take out ruinous loans from commercial banks in order to continue them.

The president's edict "On Granting Russian Federation Government State Credits for Conversion and Investments Programs in 1994" is also designed to rectify this ridiculous oversight. In the third quarter, 200 billion in credits will be issued for conversion programs, and 400 billion for investment programs—all to the agro-industrial complex. The lion's share of the credits will go to the military-industrial complex and the agro-industrial complex in the final quarter too: Out of almost R3 trillion, less than a third—R900 billion—is earmarked for all the other sectors put together. Clearly, such figures do not threaten an inflationary spiral, particularly as these allocations do not exceed the set bounds of the budget deficit and, so to speak, were lobbied for earlier.

Vladimir Kosov and Sergey Ignatyev, deputy ministers of the economy, outlined the fundamentally new provisions introduced by the edict to journalists in the White House. In the third quarter, as before, state credits will be issued under the old interest rate of 10 percent, but in the following quarter they will comprise a quarter of the Central Bank credit rate. In this way all preferential credits will ultimately be eradicated.

However, credits for conversion and investment will not be issued to just anybody now, but only for wholly specific and highly effective programs. And at the same time, only for those programs into which the enterprise itself has begun to pump its own money. Not a single program will be subsidized completely at the expense of the "state coffers." A strict repayment period has been set—it must not extend beyond 1995, which rules out not only long-term projects, but, it seems, new construction in general. Preliminary lists of hundreds of programs laying claim to preferential credits have been drawn up. It is obvious that only half of the enterprises will obtain state money for conversion and investment.

In answer to my question on the size of the enterprises' own investments, Vladimir Kosov said that for conversion programs these, in line with existing practice, will make up around one-third of the total, and one-half for investment programs. In the immediate future, possibly as early as next year, state credits will start to be issued

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on a competitive basis for the most efficient projects without any "sectoral principle," which will nullify any lobbying and departmental pressure on the state.

The thrust of the president's "tax" edicts was outlined in the White House to journalists by Deputy Minister of Finance Sergey Aleksashenko. According to existing legislation on profit tax and value-added tax, an enterprise which has sold its products at less than cost price (otherwise nobody would buy it) also has to pay a huge fine—it was believed that in this way the enterprise evaded taxes. There may have been some sense in this back in 1992-93 under rampant inflation, but it has subsequently turned into an economic absurdity, and what is more a very artificial one. Many plants are simply overstocked, having lost the chance to sell immobilized resources even at a loss and get at least some of the money back. The final straw, putting an end to the absurdity, was, in the deputy minister's words, Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to Penza where, at one plant, out in the open air, he saw a heap of 30,000 bicycles which it has been impossible to sell to anybody, even at the loss-making prices of new bikes today. The Edict "On Clarifying the Existing Procedure for Levying Profit Tax and Value-Added Tax" spares enterprises from penalties for prices which fall below cost price, it unties their hands—henceforth, the sum of funds it receives for the sale of loss-making products will be related to a graph of financial activity and subject to tax on general grounds.

Yet one more long felt inconsistency is eradicated by the president's Edict "On Funds for the Social Development of Tax Bodies and the Tax Police." Until recently these funds have included 30 percent of penalties imposed for incorrectly paid taxes. The more fines, the greater the actual revenues of the tax services. Naturally, this type of "fund-creating" client led to a regular witch hunt not for taxes but for fines, and they were imposed quite frequently and without the necessary grounds. Now the edict "binds" social funds for tax services to the general amount of taxes levied in Russia too.

Now, according to the deputy ministers of the economy and finance, the president's signature is awaited for a new package of investment edicts aimed at revitalizing this process in Russia, as well as an edict on measures to get out of the crisis of nonpayments which alters requirements on enterprises' economic activity and the role and powers of the arbitration courts in deciding disputes on recovering debts and so on.

Regional Affairs

Stepashin Rules Out Force in Chechnya, Urges Dialogue

MK1808082294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "FCS Ready For Talks with Chechnya Leaders"]

[Text] Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], has expressed his view on one of Russia's main internal problems—the situation in Chechnya. He said that "any forcible actions on the part of the FCS, the Internal Affairs Ministry, or the Defense Ministry are out of the question, but government authorities are ready for talks with any side that recognizes Russia's sovereignty over Chechnya, Russian authorities, and the Constitution."

Chechnya Denies Planning Provocations Against Cossacks

LD1808125894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1053 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] In a statement to the cossacks of southern Russia issued in Groznyy on Thursday, Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev denies that his republic is either planning or carrying out acts of terrorism or diversion aimed at provoking inter-ethnic conflict.

Dudayev says that Groznyy "categorically and with disgust" rejects such "immoral" methods and adds that Chechnya would not resort to them in any circumstances.

Khasbulatov Comments on Chechen Situation

LD1708182594 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report on Chechen situation by Aleksandr Khabarov, including remarks by Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, and Ruslan Labazanov, Chechen opposition figure; passages in quotation marks are recorded]

[Text] [Khabarov] Leaders of the Chechen opposition today accused President Dudayev's people of new provocations aimed at splitting the opposition. This was caused by reports, the source of which is unknown, about electing Ruslan Khasbulatov, former speaker of the Russian parliament, as head of the opposition interim council. According to another version this was caused by reports about the formation of some sort of a republican state council led by Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the interim council, has described the above as a gross provocation and propoganda by Dudayev. Chechnya's government of national trust, members of which are presently staying in Moscow, have said that there is no such thing as a state council at all. The former speaker of the Russian parliament himself does not know anything about his new posts. What he says about himself is straightforward.

[Khasbulatov] "Basically, I am the leader here, and I am recognized by practically everyone. I think you understand it very well."

[Khabarov] This morning Ruslan Khasbulatov shared his thoughts on the development of situation in Chechnya.

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[Khasbulatov] "I think that Dudayev's regime is in agony. All resources have now been exhausted and all the sides are now fleeing. All his supporters are hurrying to get into various oppositional structures. So, of course, he should save face and disappear from the political scene. He should announce that he is resigning in favor of the people, that he is not opposed to the elections, and so on, and so forth. This would have been appreciated in some way."

[Khabarov] Khasbulatov has one more suggestion—to get rid of the presidential institution in Chechnya.

[Khasbulatov] "Presidents are not for Russia or for here. As soon as one becomes president, one puts oneself not just above the people but also above God. It is like in a circus. As far as I am concerned I think one can only feel sorry for all these presidents."

[Khabarov] Ruslan Khasbulatov sees his main task in preventing bloodshed in Chechnya. According to him only a rise in people's indignation will lead to the fall of Dudayev's regime. Thanks to this position Khasbulatov has already scored with some of the opponents of the current president of the Chechen Republic. Among these people, it is already known, is Ruslan Labazanov.

[Labazanov] "Ruslan Khasbulatov's mission is a serious one. We support him strongly. Ruslan does not call for bloodshed in Chechnya or a certain regime in Chechnya. Let the people decide it."

Mayhem in Groznyy Causing 'Slight Panic'

MM1808082194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "Deadline for Surrendering Weapons Expires in Chechnya, But Umar Avturkhanov Is Not Thinking of Disarming"]

[Text] Dzhokhar Dudayev gave the "illegal" formation 10 days to surrender their weapons and hardware. The deadline expired midnight 17 August. As expected, there was no disorder at the reception points. Joe Public did not head there either in "well-organized ranks" or in "convoys." It either grieved him to hand over assault rifles, pistols, etc bought at considerable cost (Dudayev did not promise any money for the "pieces" that were handed over), or else Joe Public thought it would be tiresome to sit on a powder keg (for that read Chechnya) empty-handed. All the more so since the chief "rebel," Umar Avturkhanov, has set the opposite example: He has bought two Mi-8 helicopters from a CIS country.

People are not surrendering weapons in Chechnya, preferring to use them for their real purpose. In the past few days explosions have once again been heard in Groznyy, not just anywhere but in the buildings of the Supreme Court, the Prosecutor's Office, the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs], and the State Security Department. Sultan Geliskhanov, chief of the State Security Department, has been seriously injured. In accordance with tradition the people who organized and set off the "fireworks" have not been found.

According to our information, a slight panic can be discerned in the top echelons of power in Chechnya. Some people are reporting sick and failing to turn up for work, others are taking their families to a safe place, while senior MVD and state security officials are refusing to work night shifts or have even stopped going to work altogether. In response to one alarm signal in Groznyy...four militiamen turned up to the muster posts.

The situation in Groznyy seems to be gradually escaping Dzhokhar Dudayev's control. He is of course hurt that Chechens have ostentatiously ignored his edict on surrendering weapons. On the other hand, Dudayev does not give the impression of being a naive ruler who thought that weapons would be surrendered right away before the ink of his signature on the edict had dried. If that is indeed the case, he is hardly thinking up the best excuse for a campaign against the hateful opposition.

Ingushetia, N. Ossetia Presidents View Chechnya

MM1708154994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Aleksandr Lugovskaya: "Ingushetia Does Not Intend To Build a Veinakh Republic With U. Avturkhanov"]

[Text] Ingushetia President Ruslan Aushev has rejected in a telephone conversation a statement by U. Avturkhanov, head of the opposition Interim Council in Chechnya, regarding the former's agreement to build a Veinakh Republic following Avturkhanov's accession to power: "I have not spoken with Avturkhanov at all."

R. Aushev refused to comment in detail on the situation in Chechnya: "Give us a chance to construct the Republic of Ingushetia—democratic, civilized, and prepared to befriend everybody. Especially the Chechen people, our brothers."

Tension in Chechnya, in the general's words, does indeed exist, and he does not rule out the possibility of armed clashes, especially in a situation where "people are walking around with firearms, and the mass media, by showing severed heads on television, are seemingly inciting them to this." But the people, despite there having been a mass of reasons for taking up arms, understand that the solution lies not in gunfire, but in talks. It would be nice, R. Aushev believes, if the politicians could understand this too. D. Dudayev, according to his information, is hanging tough, and R. Khasbulatov is chasing from rally to rally.

The viewpoint of North Ossetia President Akhsarbek Galazov on the situation in Chechnya also coincides with the one expressed by R. Aushev. In his view, not a single one of the conflicts in the Caucasus can be extinguished in isolation, insofar as it is a unified political, national economic, and cultural organism. The

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situation in Chechnya affects in the most direct manner the overall situation in the Caucasus, as well as in Russia as a whole. A. Galazov agrees with B. Yeltsin that the Chechen question has to be settled purely through political and constitutional methods, because the forcible option of resolving it will prompt reciprocal forcible measures.

North Ossetia's president is convinced that Russia should work out a targeted, complex program for a peaceful settlement in the Caucasus, sitting all politicians of greater and lesser rank from all the trouble spots—Nagorno-Karabakh, Abkhazia, South and North Ossetia, Ingushetia, Chechnya—around one negotiating "roundtable" in order to do this. And Russia must lead the Caucasus to peace. Nobody else can do this, A. Galazov believes, as nobody else is capable.

Although the situation in Chechnya is also of concern to the presidents of Ossetia and Ingushetia, both are engaged in carrying out a joint program to return Ingush refugees to their former homes—this is problem number one. A. Galazov firmly intends to fulfil the Russian president's edict on compulsory resettlement, but, aware of the full complexity of the problem, he deems the "procedure for reconciling people who, after armed conflict, must again live together" equally important. In all four populated areas listed in Yeltsin's edict, a revival of schools and pre-school nurseries in time for the new school year is under way. People are also "moving back little by little."

Public Chamber Scores Chechnya Duplicity

MM1708135194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under "On Events in Chechnya" rubric: "Crisis of Power Fraught With Tragedy"]

[Text] The Chechen Republic's duplicitous position has led to the most blatant violations of the Constitution and laws of the Russian Federation, and of human rights, and has created the opportunity for the republic leadership's connivance at actions of a manifestly criminal character. This is the message of a resolution adopted at a session of the Commission for Security Questions of the Public Chamber under the Russian Federation President. All this has led to a crisis of power and threatens to escalate into armed confrontation fraught with unpredictable tragic consequences for the peoples of the North Caucasus and all Russia, the document indicates.

The intensified political and economic crisis in the republic is leading to impoverishment and is placing the entire population of Chechnya on the brink of extinction, the resolution points out. The totally unsupported statements from the Chechnya leadership that the Chechen Republic is not part of Russia hardly reflect the opinion of the peoples who inhabit the republic.

In the prevailing situation the commission believes that the leadership of the Chechen Republic, which is an inalienable component of the Russian Federation, should rigorously implement the Constitution and laws of Russia and in the name of preserving peace and accord proposes that a commission for the normalization of the situation should be set up, incorporating representatives of the "Security of the Citizen and Society" roundtable.

Caucasus Confederation Issues Statement on Chechnya

LD1708193094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The Confederation of the Peoples of the Caucasus expressed concern about tensions fanned by "certain quarters of the Russian leadership" in connection with the events in Chechnya.

The Confederation issued a statement on Wednesday which says that "this is done in an attempt to justify intervention into Chechnya, prepared by Russia."

History shows that the use of force in settling such problems is senseless, particularly in the Caucasus, the document continues. Any military interference in the internal affairs of Chechnya will destabilize the situation in the whole of the North Caucasian region and in the south of Russia, it goes on to say.

The Confederation warned the leaders of the Provisional Council that "in the event of aggression against the legitimate Chechen authorities, their actions will be perceived as a violation of the Chechen constitution which may provoke a new Caucasian war." In this case the responsibility for it will rest entirely with the leaders of the Provisional Council.

The Confederation's Vice President and Chief of the Confederation's Staff in Abkhazia Ruslan Gvashev told Interfax that the statement was sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, to Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko and State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin.

No. Caucasian Democrats Appeal for Peace

LD1808111294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Shanayev]

[Text] Vladikavkaz August 18 TASS—The Political Council of the North Caucasian Democratic Forces Assembly has called on all the warring sides in Chechnya to begin negotiations on a peaceful way out of the crisis and preventing of new bloodshed. The council's appeal, made public on Wednesday night by the press-service of the North Ossetian president and government, said that the interests of the Chechen people should be put above personal interests.

The appeal stated that a Caucasian war appears inconceivable to the peoples of North Ossetia, Kabardino-Balkaria, Ingushetia and Dagestan. Their only wish is to

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strengthen the united federal state and to establish peace and concord among its nations. The majority of the Chechen people want the same. Ethnic policy must not be decided by adventurers who do not express the true wishes of the peace-loving peoples, the appeal said.

The council called on all federal authorities to prevent violence and bloodshed and to take all necessary steps to settle the crisis in Chechnya through peaceful negotiations with the participation of the presidents of the north Caucasian republics.

The council also appealed to President Boris Yeltsin as guarantor of the Russian Constitution, human rights and freedoms to take steps to protect the Russian Federation's sovereignty in the north Caucasus.

ITAR-TASS has learnt that the North Ossetian president expressed full support to the Russian president's efforts to settle the Chechen crisis by peaceful means. A Caucasian war would be madness. This region should become a zone of peace and concord and only Russia can be a real guarantor of stability there, he added.

Yeltsin Sums Up Volga Trip

LD1708150394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Today the president visited Rostselmash, the country's largest producer of combine harvesters. Boris Yeltsin looked at specimens of machinery and an exhibition of the consumer goods manufactured by the factory. Yeltsin spoke with workers in the shops, asked them about working conditions and wages. The president stressed that Russia's social policy should be based on the following principle—neither levelling out of wages nor a large gap between the minimum and maximum wages should be tolerated. The president met heads of the Rostselmash joint-stock company. After the meeting Yeltsin summed up his trip. According to the president, the economic recession has slowed down and will not worsen. Yeltsin is satisfied with the way things are in Tatarstan, Nizhniy Novgorod, Samara, and Rostov oblasts. He admitted, however, that there are such oblasts like Ivanovo and Kostroma which, according to him, do not feel well. They need substantial assistance without which they cannot survive, the president remarked.

Yeltsin Convinced 'No Further Slump' in Industry

MM1808082394 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Ladnyy: "Yeltsin Tells the Inhabitants of Rostov-na-Donu What's What"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin stopped off for the day at Rostov-na-Donu en route to Sochi for his vacation. A Cossack choir was the first to greet the president at the airport of this spick-and-span city.

City inhabitants thronged the whole of the route to Rostselmash taken by the motorcade, this being the first chance for many people to see the president "in the flesh," as it were.

"If the plant had settled for just a couple of modifications, there would have been no progress," Yeltsin stated. "The plant is developing, expanding the range of its vehicles. A purpose-built supercombine, the Don-2600, is next in line."

"And when on the whole will the industrial slump end," he was asked.

"I have traveled the length and breadth of the Volga, been through dozens of cities, and spoken with people everywhere," the president replied. "I have been able to see that the slump has been checked in a number of oblasts. There will be no further slump, I am convinced of that."

"And the main problems?"

"They concern the environment, air purity. But between you and me, and don't spread it around, journalists, Titov treated me to crayfish in Samara. Well, crayfish, you know, can't abide dirty water. And if they have showed up in our rivers, that speaks volumes."

Yeltsin Greeted by Grachev, Kozyrev in Sochi

LD1808082994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0714 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—At the airport near Sochi, where Boris Yeltsin arrived yesterday evening after completing his working trip around the country, the president was met by Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma; Defense Minister Pavel Grachev; Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev; Labor Minister Gennadiy Melikyan; and Yevgeniy Kharitonov, the new governor of Krasnodar Kray.

Sochi's Mayor Nikolay Karpov told the ITAR-TASS correspondent this over the telephone. Thus, the center of Russian power has moved to the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus where over the next few days there is to be a top-level discussion of the issues of "the new political year" which begins after the summer vacations and the parliamentary recess.

The mayor said that Boris Yeltsin usually spends his time actively in Sochi, finding out about the city's problems and meeting with workforces in Krasnodar Kray. Evidently he will keep to this tradition this time too. "But we intend not to bother the president for a day or two, to give him time to rest," Nikolay Karpov said. He added that he hopes to discuss prospects for the development of this major Russian Federation resort with the head of state.

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Yeltsin May Ask Regional Heads To Postpone Elections

MK1808084694 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Radik Batyrshin under the "Version" rubric: "Postponing Elections President's Autumn Offensive Goal? Composition of New Cabinet Already Being Named"]

[Text] Boris Yeltsin has asked the State Duma to consider the question of convening an all-Russia conference on the problems of reform of regional self-government. This piece of news from the mouth of Mikhail Mityukov, the first vice speaker of the lower chamber of the Russian parliament, has made me think again about a subject only the lazy did not discuss before the summer vacation season—the subject of moving the elections for the Federal Assembly back two years. The latest information concerning this has come through a news leak about two ranking members of the president's staff having conducted talks with the heads of a number of State Duma factions promising a portfolio to each of them. The author of the leak claimed that should the election postponement idea succeed, the current composition of the federal government would be sacrificed. Moreover, concrete candidates to positions were named: Sergey Glazyev as prime minister, Gennadiy Zyuganov as vice premier, Vasiliy Lipitskiy as foreign minister, and Aleksandr Lebed as defense minister. While the turning over of the key positions to the opposition leaders is seen as unlikely, the leak sounded trustworthy because of a report to the effect that Boris Yeltsin is calling a conference of the leaders of federation components in the fall where the "comrades from the regions" will suggest launching a campaign to prepare a referendum on postponing parliamentary elections.

At the same time, other sources believe that the majority of the regional leaders show no deep sympathy for the idea of changing Viktor Chernomyrdin's government, though they have nothing against postponing the parliamentary elections. Observers therefore believe that if talks about a new composition of the cabinet of ministers did take place, this was merely a game involving the "Moscow" politicians, and hardly takes account of the interests of the regional leaders, most of whom are represented in the Federation Council. At the same time, the unprecedentedly great frequency of Boris Yeltsin's trips to the Russian regions may indicate that the Russian Federation president has decided to win over to his side in real earnest the leaders of federation components (and by the same token, the populations of the regions they control). Boris Yeltsin's frequent trips around Russia's regions may also point to the contrary—the president has decided to make up for the lack of contacts with the provinces in the recent two years when he could not leave Moscow for an extended time due to his standoff with the former Russian Federation Supreme Soviet.

Ural Region, Tatarstan Discuss Economic Ties

MM1708162794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Vladimir Stakheyev under "News" rubric: "'Journey From Yekaterinburg to Kazan'"]

[Text] Yekaterinburg—A delegation from Sverdlovsk Oblast Duma and the economic association of Ural oblasts and republics led by Eduard Rossel has visited Tatarstan at the invitation of that republic's president, Mintimer Shaymiyev.

The purpose of the trip was to restore economic ties between the regions. The possibility of Tatarstan's joining the Ural economic association was also discussed.

The guests were acquainted with the economy of the republic, which is, as we know, making its own way into the market without copying Russia's experience.

The delegation visited the collectives of aviation and helicopter associations, the Academy of Sciences of Tatarstan, and villages of the republic.

A communique was signed which records the intention to prepare a wide-ranging agreement on economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation.

The possibility of Tatarstan's joining the Ural economic association was also announced.

Tatarstan, Abkhazia Sign Cooperation Treaty

LD1708193694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1756 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] President of Tatarstan Mintimer Shaymiyev and Abkhazian parliament speaker Vladislav Ardzinba signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Tatarstan and Abkhazia in Kazan on August 17.

Shaymiyev stated during the signing ceremony that the development of state systems was a logical way of the evolution of former autonomous entities after the Soviet Union's breakup. He also said that the Russian-Tatar treaty had raised a solid barrier to Russia's unitary development. The main gain is peaceful relations between the federal center and the republics, he said.

Ardzinba highly praised Tatarstan's political role in and outside the Russian Federation, and said that Tatarstan was an example of successful advancement along the road of democracy.

The two parties agreed to conclude a package of interbranch agreements, including agreements on trade and economic cooperation, on the extension of state credits and on the protection of human life and dignity. Both leaders confirmed their plans to cooperate in the areas of law enforcement and foreign trade, and in science, culture, education, health care, transportation and information exchanges.

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No Extra Units Introduced for Coup Anniversary

LD1808133994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1258 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—No new units of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs troops will be moved to Moscow in connection with the anniversary of the events of August 1991, said Lieutenant-General Viktor Gafarov, first deputy commander of the internal troops, in a conversation with an ITAR-TASS correspondent today.

He noted that militia units permanently stationed in the capital are continuing to carry out patrols and sentry duty as normal. The Dzerzhinskiy Division is engaged in scheduled training.

Protests at Nuclear Power Stations Suspended

LD1708190694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1607 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] All protest actions launched at the Smolensk, Kalinin and Kola nuclear power stations on July 28 have been suspended, but the situation at the facilities remains complicated, according to the state-owned Rosenergoatom concern.

In the first seven months of the year consumers paid for only 30 percent of the electricity generated at the nine Russian nuclear power stations. As a result the operational stores of nuclear fuel have practically run out and the stations have no money to purchase more.

The formation of the stores alone requires the spending of 500 billion rubles. Some 37 billion more are needed to pay overdue wages. At some stations the delays are three or four months long.

The question of debts in nuclear power engineering is expected to be discussed in September by the government commission for payments and settlements.

The trade union of workers in nuclear power engineering says the staffs of stations intend to resume the protest action, if during the next month the government fails to resolve the problem of debts.

Kazannik Party Holds Conference in St. Peterburg

MK1708122394 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Leontiy Bennigsen: "Leningrad is the Cradle of the People's Conscience: Aleksey Kazannik is Forming His Own Party."]

[Text] Today in St. Petersburg, the regional constituent conference of the north-western chapter of the Party of the People's Conscience [PPC], founded by Aleksey Kazannik, the former prosecutor general of Russia, will take place. He has been in St. Petersburg for three days already and is making extensive acquaintance with the public and the workers.

Kazannik arrived in St. Petersburg on the invitation of the regional organizational committee of his party. Aleksandr Diomidovskiy, who at one time directed Yeltsin's preelection campaign in the northern capital, has become Kazannik's representative in St. Petersburg. Kazannik is undertaking organizational work in St. Petersburg with pleasure. In his words, it is easier there than anywhere else to organize a party since it is a very political city: All of the national-scale leaders have come first of all to St. Petersburg. As is fitting for a national-scale leader, Kazannik visited the Putilovskiy and Baltiyskiy factories.

Kazannik is successfully taking advantage of the peculiarities of the second capital. "The oblast-size city with a great history" feels keenly its humiliation before energetic Moscow—a reversal of the situation when "the purple-clad widow appeared before the young tsarina" [a line from Pushkin's poem, The Bronze Horseman, relating how in the 19th century the old capital of Moscow was humbled before the new capital of St. Petersburg]—and is being encouraged to assume the role of the capital of provincialism. From a provincial viewpoint, Moscow is beginning to be seen as some sort of foreign enclave, a sort of West Berlin in the body of East Germany, and it was not without a pleasant sensation that the jealous Leningraders heard Kazannik's words to the effect that the party will be provincial (or to put it bluntly—anti-Muscovite) and that "the provinces do not care much about what is going on within the garden ring [the Moscow beltway]" and that Kazannik would have "compromised" himself if he had held his congress in Moscow.

Alongside its anti-Muscovite sentiments, the PPC will also take a pronounced anti-regime stance. Commenting on Varennikov's acquittal, the former general prosecutor said that he came to strongly respect the general after the latter refused to be amnestied and highly appraised the actions of the counsel for the prosecution who dropped charges against him. Kazannik added that if he had been general prosecutor in 1991, he would have dismissed the case because of changes in the sociopolitical situation. Conversely, following the October events he was going to bring criminal charges also against those who sided with the president, but the amnesty prevented him from doing so. Judging from the fact that these statements of Kazannik's resembled recent pronouncements by Rutskoy and Varennikov to the letter, the rapprochement between "the people's conscience" and all sorts of "powers" and "councils" is a matter for the very near future.

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International Affairs

'No Change' in Stance on CIS Security System

LD1708172494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] "There have been no changes in Ukraine's position on the collective security system of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), nor are any changes expected in it," the Ukrainian president's official spokesman, Mikhail Doroshenko, said commenting on media reports that the Ukrainian Armed Forces Chief of Staff Anatoliy Lopata had suggested stronger military ties with other CIS countries.

At a news briefing in Kiev on Wednesday, Doroshenko cited a statement made by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma at a recent news conference he held jointly with his Kazakh counterpart, Nursultan Nazarbayev, to the effect that Ukraine would closely consider Kazakhstan's proposals for more intensive integration within the Commonwealth. Kuchma, however, is not in a hurry to make up his mind about these proposals, the spokesman said.

Kuchma, at the same news conference, suggested giving priority to CIS economic integration.

Zlenko Article on Foreign Policy Priorities Viewed

MK1808095994 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Skachko under the "Ukraine" rubric: "Foreign Ministry Defines Foreign Policy Priorities"]

[Text] In the past several years, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has been routinely reproached for lacking clearly-defined foreign policy priorities and, hence, failing to pursue a foreign policy advantageous to Ukraine. However, hitherto the Foreign Ministry operated under the patronage of Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and was thus protected by his authority. The situation might change now after the arrival of a new head of state, Leonid Kuchma, who keeps repeating with enviable consistency in nearly all his public statements that he is dissatisfied with Ukraine's foreign policy, which "should be energetic and aggressive, and should not risk depending on who is going on a visit, and where." On these grounds, speculation has mounted in Kiev that Ukrainian Foreign Minister Anatoliy Zlenko might soon resign—the new Ukrainian president might well blame him for being too consistent in following Leonid Kravchuk's instructions, particularly on matters of nuclear disarmament, and also for loud, sometimes political, scandals.

But Anatoliy Zlenko still carries on. Moreover, in three issues of GOLOS UKRAINY, the parliamentary newspaper, he published an article with a telling title: "Ukraine: A New Dimension," in which he stated that the need to find a clear orientation in a new geopolitical environment, to enhance relations with its immediate neighbors in a correct fashion, and to define more clearly its strategic foreign policy interests formulated in the guidelines of Ukrainian foreign policy are vital for Ukraine.

This is what the minister tried to accomplish in his article, which says from the outset that "the formation of Ukraine's new geopolitical environment is proceeding under the influence of two opposed trends: the process of disintegration and the decentralization of the former system that existed to the east of the Berlin Wall, and also the process of setting up new integrationist, subregional structures by the countries of East and Central Europe." According to Anatoliy Zlenko, at the moment there are three areas of integration in Europe: Western Europe, united by the Maastricht agreements; Central Europe and the Baltic states, which want to artificially unite with the West, but are still unable to because of differing interests of the countries of the region; and, finally, East Europe and countries of the former USSR, which have united into "a distinct interstate association, the CIS," where Russia has been trying to play a dominant role. Given that, Ukraine's main priorities are its internal affairs, particularly overcoming the economic crisis, creating a civil, rule-of-law society, and ensuring national security, Anatoliy Zlenko said. However, doing so would be practically impossible, the minister continued, "without close coordination with the international environment," and Ukraine itself "should be a reliable, natural, predictable partner within the system of international relations that will enrich the system by its unique qualities, by contributing to its stability."

Anatoliy Zlenko said that Ukraine's main objective is to correctly determine its foreign policy partners, saying that "in so doing we should see Russia as our main partner." In his view, this reorientation has been prompted by the fact that Ukraine, on one hand, has not yet reached the economic level of the Western countries and is still incompatible with Western economies, but, on the other, also feels its incompatibility with the CIS economies following the disruption of traditional ties. At the same time, he warned against veering away too much toward either side, because this would turn Ukraine into a sort of economic Curzon Line, tear it away from the real economic and political situation in Europe. In the minister's words, Russia's desire to dominate in the CIS is natural, and in the present conditions Ukraine should proceed from the understanding that "a strong, democratic, and independent Ukraine needs a strong, democratic Russia more than any other country," because any other approach would only encourage the trend toward searching for enemies in both countries, which may end in stirring up anti-Russian or anti-Ukrainian sentiments.

The third part of the minister's article is entitled "European Choice." It reaffirms Ukraine's main foreign policy postulate whereby "Ukraine can and should become an

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influential state capable of playing a significant role in achieving political and economic stability in Europe." The author says in that regard that presently Ukraine's definition as a constantly neutral state needs to be revised because "it is necessary to perceive neutrality in general and Ukrainian neutrality in particular in the context of economic and political integrationist processes in Europe." In the minister's words, following the end of the Cold War, the disappearance of a bipolar world, the evolution of NATO and other all-European structures toward an all-European security system, a classical, constant neutrality no longer exists as it has been traditionally seen in international law. Hence, Ukraine should be directly and fully involved in the creation of an all-European security system on the basis of NATO, the CSCE and other international structures, which will at the same time serve as a guarantor of Ukrainian security.

Summing up the ministerial article, one could say that except for a more pronounced orientation toward cooperation with Russia and other CIS countries, Anatoliy Zlenko has not changed anything crucial in his stance and continues to advocate a measured, balanced foreign policy for Ukraine. At the same time, it follows from the article that the foreign ministry still wants to work with the new Ukrainian president: the minister does not accentuate the problem of Ukraine's immediate nuclear disarmament, to which Leonid Kravchuk's former entourage invariably linked any foreign policy steps of the country. It shall be recalled that while saying that Ukraine will fulfill all its international obligations, including those concerning nuclear disarmament, Kuchma nonetheless has firmly demanded more specific material compensation for related expenditures and adherence by the international community itself to its obligations to Ukrain. Anatoliy Zlenko heeded these appeals in his article by passing over the question of nuclear disarmament altogether. Naturally, the minister's statement urging a closer cooperation with the CIS and Russia fit in neatly with Leonid Kuchma's views; moreover, this was one of the main slogans that catapulted Kuchma into the presidential palace.

It is yet unknown how Leonid Kuchma would react to such an adjustment of the minister's views. Rumors unpropitious for Anatoliy Zlenko are still circulating. It is quite possible, however, that given a shortage of qualified personnel in Ukraine, there is simply no substitute for Anatoliy Zlenko in Leonid Kuchma's team. Moreover, under the current Ukrainian Constitution, Leonid Kuchma cannot appoint his own man as foreign minister without having his nomination confirmed by the parliament, whose reaction is still unpredictable.

Spokesman Says No Progress at Black Sea Fleet Talks

LD1708145594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, 17 Aug—A briefing on preliminary results of the Black Sea Fleet negotiations, on a package of economic directives by the Ukrainian president, and on a draft decree on currency regulation [has been held] at the presidential administration's office.

No tangible progress was made at the Black Sea Fleet talks at present being held in Moscow. Ukraine's initiative to make a full inventory of the Fleet's seagoing craft and shore infrastructure does not have the other side's full understanding.

As for a package of economic directives by the president, their approval, which was planned for 5-20 August, is being delayed because the drafts were not submitted by the relevant services in time and some of them are in need of finalization.

The draft decree on currency regulation, prepared by the presidential team, does not make any provision for "the sale" of 100 percent of currency to the state at a fixed exchange rate.

The briefing was held by Mykhaylo Doroshenko, presidential press secretary.

Talks End With No Russian Response

LD1808114994 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1040 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Moscow, 18 Aug—The Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the problems of the Black Sea Fleet have ended. Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, the head of the Ukrainian delegation, presented Ukraine's proposals to transform the Black Sea Fleet into two separate fleets with a joint base, and solve personnel problems by joint efforts. The Ukrainian delegation also proposed that Russia should pay for leasing the base to accommodate the interests of Crimea.

The Russian delegation, led by Yuriy Dubinin, made no specific response to the Ukrainian proposals. The number of ships which will belong to Russia on the division of the fleet has not changed, with Ukraine retaining one-sixth of the ships.

Ukraine, Polish Premiers Discuss Grain Sales

LD1708145194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Lutsk, 17 Aug—A meeting between the Ukrainian and Polish heads of government has begun. Vitaliy Masol and Waldemar Pawlak have met tete-a-tete. The prospects for trade and economic cooperation were discussed. Experts believe that the sale of grain to Ukraine was, in particular, on the agenda. It is expected that a joint memorandum will be signed.

The building of the oblast state administration hosting the meeting is being picketed by members of Volhynia's regional branch of the "Kholmshchyna" society, demanding that Ukrainian graves and churches in Poland be put in order.

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Premiers Agree on Cooperation

LD1808085494 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 0700 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Vitaliy Masol and Waldemar Pawlak, the prime ministers of Ukraine and Poland, signed a joint communique yesterday in Lutsk. Noting the gradual progress in trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, the prime ministers agreed to maintain the development of direct contacts between enterprises and to take measures to eliminate obstacles to the expansion of entrepreneurial and trade activities.

The priority areas of future cooperation are agriculture and food processing, machine-building, the military-industrial complex and conversion, the pharmaceutical industry, and regional cooperation. Cooperation in power engineering, communications, and the chemical industry is also believed to be promising and necessary for the two countries' development. The communique notes the need to speed up the formation of a joint Ukrainian-Polish investment and trade bank.

Waldemar Pawlak and Vitaliy Masol also discussed problems concerning the development of transportation and transit shipments to third countries. The Republic of Poland will continue as before to assist Ukraine in achieving full membership in the Central European Initiative, the communique says. The document stresses that comprehensive cooperation between Ukraine and Poland not only accords with the historical interests of the two nations, but is also a guarantee of stability in Central and Eastern Europe.

Agreement on Gas Supplies Reached With Russia

LD1708143194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The latest round of Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the payment for Russian gas supplies ended today with the signing of a protocol agreement. According to the document, the Ukrainian side pledges to pay 20-25 percent of its debt within the next three months, Anatoliy Dyuba, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for the fuel and energy complex, revealed. Ukraine's debt for Russian gas currently stands at $1.475 billion, less the money owed to Ukraine for transit rights. Ukraine receives daily 630-650 billion cubic meters of gas including transit deliveries to Western Europe.

"The previous agreement on a stage-by-stage debt payment was in effect not carried out, and the schedule of payments was disrupted," said Rem Vyakhirev, head of the Russian delegation and president of the Russian Gazprom joint stock company . "Ukraine is generally incapable of settling such a huge debt," he added. This, he said, forced the sides to seek an effective method of payment. The sides noted in the protocol agreement that several Gazprombank current accounts are to be opened at two or three of Ukraine's commercial banks to speed up transactions. A favorable outcome of the talks, according to Rem Vyakhirev, would be if Gazprom is allowed to receive direct payment from gas consumers themselves, enterprises run by the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Machine-Building, through a specialized agency, Prominvestenergo. The Russian side expressed particular interest in joint ownership of six enterprises, including Odessa port works, Southern Dnieper Gas, and others, as part payment for the gas already supplied.

Nikolay Ishutin, director of Gazprom's office in Ukraine, told UNIAN: "Gazprom is forced to demand the controlling block of shares in some cases of joint privatization where enterprises are linked more closely through their order portfolio to Russia than to Ukraine." According to Ishutin, the present uncertainty inflicts considerable losses on these companies and places them on the verge of bankruptcy. Rem Vyakhirev told UNIAN that the nearest and most realistic prospect, stemming from the unified nature of Ukraine's and Russia's gas complex and the existence of specialized banks, is to form an industrial financial group in the gas industry, along the lines of the Russian-Ukrainian Oil Company. Vyakhirev said he is convinced that such a company would be the necessary "single manager of the system." The head of the Russian delegation said the idea to form this industrial financial group was favored by President Leonid Kuchma during the two men's conversation [yesterday].

National Affairs

President Dismisses Two Deputy Interior Ministers

WS1808084094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] By virtue of an edict from the Ukrainian president, Venyamyn Heorhevych Batashevych has been dismissed from the office of Ukrainian deputy minister for internal affairs and chief of the Main Personnel Directorate upon his retirement. Valentyn Mykhaylovych Nedryhaylo has been dismissed from the office of Ukrainian first deputy minister for internal affairs in connection with his permanent duties as a Ukrainian people's deputy.

Kiev Surface-to-Air Missile Training Center Closed

LD1708180194 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Kiev, [no dateline as received]—"It has become traditional for Ukraine to disband military schools on Independence Day," said Oleksandr Avramenko, a senior researcher at Ukraine's Ministry of Defense Scientific Research Institute, commenting on the closure of Kiev Higher School of Surface-to-Air Missile Engineering. "On the first anniversary of independence, they

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closed Kiev All-Arms School, and now two more are being disbanded: the Kiev Higher School of Surface-to-Air Missile Engineering and the Air Defense Academy, two key centers of training research, teaching and engineering staff for land force air defense.

"Kiev was the USSR's only training center in this field, which also received students from 30 other countries," he continued. "The two schools trained personnel for all of the Soviet Union's mobile surface-to-air missile systems: S-300V, Krug, Kub, Buk, Osa, Tunguska, and others."

According to Avramenko, surface-to-air missile engineers will be now trained at a different school. The loss from the reorganization is estimated at $30-50 million. Almost all of the teachers and researchers are now lost to the air defense force. Meanwhile, the Kiev Higher School of Surface-to-Air Missile Engineering is being reorganized into a political military school and the military training department of Kiev Medical University. The school premises are currently used by the construction and financial directorates of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense and other organizations. Avramenko said that the present tendency to respecialize Ukraine's surface-to-air missile schools is weakening the state's defense capability.

New Monitoring System Developed for Nuclear Plants

LD1708150194 Berlin DDP/ADN in German 1223 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Dresden (DDP/ADN)—From 1995 the Ukrainian nuclear safety authorities are to put into operation a remote monitoring system for the country's nuclear power plants. This was confirmed by Frank-Peter Weiss, director of the Institute of Safety Research in Rossendorf near Dresden, in an interview today with MDR 1—Radio Saxony. Scientists from his institute developed the system together with the Rhineland technical safety inspectorate, Weiss said.

The Rossendorf Institute has additionally created computer programs which could help simulate defects in nuclear plants, the researcher explained. The innovations are currently being used in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, and Ukraine. Russia is also interested in the programs, said Weiss.

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Belarus

Army Paper Discusses Defense Ministry Purge

MM1708141594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 3

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev under "Facts and Commentaries Postscriptum" rubric: "Belorussian [Belarusian] Military Department Leadership Completely Replaced"]

[Text] The changes in the Belorussian Defense Ministry leadership made by Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the republic president and commander in chief of its Armed Forces, cannot be called anything other than drastic.

Following Pavel Kazlowski, who, as is known, was replaced as head of the military department by Anatol Kastenka, the following have been relieved of their posts by presidential edicts: Lieutenant General Nikolay Churkin, chief of the Republic of Belorussia Armed Forces Main Staff; Alyaksandr Tushinski, first deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General Vasil Demidik, deputy defense minister; Lieutenant General Anatol Zuyev, deputy defense minister for rear services and chief of Armed Forces Rear Services; and Lieutenant General Anatol Sikora, deputy defense minister for construction and troop billeting. The only one to keep his place was General Mikhail Stankevich, deputy minister for armaments, who to some extent can also be considered a victim insofar as the previous Council of Ministers decree promoting him to lieutenant general was rescinded a few days ago [sentence as published].

New appointments were made simultaneously by presidential edicts. Lieutenant General Leanid Maltsev, formerly commander of the 28th Army Corps, became chief of the Armed Forces Main Staff. Major Generals Oleh Yatskevich and Alyaksandr Khristoforov and Colonel Uladzimir Yakhnitski became deputy defense ministers. The post of first deputy defense minister previously occupied by Tushinski remains vacant for the time being.

The military department's press center refused to comment on these cardinal top-level changes in the republic Armed Forces leadership, citing the fact that the presidential edicts do not state why the former military commanders have been relieved of their posts. But I have learned from unofficial sources that the initiators of such decisive steps to renew the Defense Ministry leadership were Anatol Kastenka, its current head, and Lieutenant Colonel Viktar Sheyman, the most active member of Lukashenka's team in the presidential race, who was recently appointed secretary of state of the republic's Security Council. By all accounts they were motivated by the future president's repeated statements during the election campaign that corruption is rife in the defense ministry. And, as the saying goes, to get out of harm's way they proposed that the former military leadership be completely renewed. Judging from the edicts published, Lukashenka agreed with their opinion.

It cannot be ruled out that the fact that practically all the top military officials sent into retirement were the former defense minister's nominees and selected by him personally also played its part. At one time, with a high degree of accord, the Defense Ministry Collegium adopted a decision to discharge Kastenka, who was then Kozlovskiy's first deputy, into the reserve "for reasons of ill health." Nobody came to the defense of the general who had fallen out of favor.

Anyway, drastic cadre changes have been made in the Belorussian military department. It is too early to judge whether and how they will affect the national Army's further reformation and organizational development.

Envoy to U.S. Hails Favorable Trade Status

WS1708130394 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] "At present we have a political ground for fruitful relations between Belarus and the United States," ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Belarus to the United States Syarhey Martynaw declared in an interview to NARODNAYA GAZETA. That is why, according to him, the Belarusian Embassy in the United States is aimed at practically assisting trade and investments. He declared that the U.S. Government had given the most favorable regime in trade to Belarus. But, in his opinion, the Belarusian trade and industrial circles have not realized yet the fact that the American market is open for Belarus. According to the ambassador, the elimination of quantitative restrictions may be very profitable for Belarus' textile industry.

KGB Chief Yahoraw Outlines Current Goals, Work

WS1808103594 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 9 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Belarusian KGB Chairman Uladzimir Yahoraw by Alyaksandr Klaskowski; place and date not given: "I Headed the KGB Not To Satisfy My Ambitions, But To Help My Fatherland in This Hard Time"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] **[Klaskowski] You worked in the KGB when this institution had the reputation of being a harsh, repressive apparatus designed primarily to protect the CPSU's monopoly on power and the dominance of one ideology. Although, as everybody knows, we live in different times now, the KGB cannot apparently remain outside politics.**

[Yahoraw] Yes, we were once taught scientific communism at the KGB School, and there was the Fifth Ideological Directorate within the committee. There were so-called preventive conversations with those whose views were considered rebellious. Dour jokes were

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making the rounds among the intelligentsia, such as: "Does that mean they've run out of bullets?"

The Fifth Directorate has recently been disbanded...

[Klaskowski] Does this mean that you are not monitoring the activities of parties, movements, and their leaders?

[Yahoraw] One can currently learn more from the press than through a political investigation. Of course, if there are grounds for believing that a certain organization aims at seizing power or is acting against the vital interests of the state to undermine its foundations, what kind of special services would not be interested in such an organization, and would not begin, as we say, "working on it."

[Klaskowski] Not all organizations, however, make their true goals public. Obviously, the committee has other sources of information in addition to newspapers... By the way, what is the current situation regarding informers? There is a widespread opinion that there were millions of them during the communist era...

[Yahoraw] That, of course, is an exaggeration. However, the KGB did actually use the services of people whom we call "sources of secret information," and it continues to do so, but on a smaller scale. As I have already said, the Fifth Directorate no longer exists, and we do not worry what people are saying in the smoking rooms...There are cases, however, where we manage to extinguish a serious threat to state interests thanks to voluntary helpers.

[Klaskowski] Are these paid services?

[Yahoraw] Only in certain cases of state importance. [passage omitted]

[Klaskowski] Many people are still convinced that the KGB keeps files on everyone who plays a more or less significant role in the country's life, including famous journalists.

[Yahoraw] We keep a file only if someone is engaged in antistate or criminal actions. Such a person can expect not only a file, but also criminal charges. There is no question of us simply opening a file to collect compromising materials on someone. Otherwise we would return to the times of total surveillance, which people recall as a nightmare.

[Klaskowski] My next question concerns telephone bugging. Some of my colleagues, when they hear a noise on the telephone line, say, half-jokingly: "God bless you, comrade major!" I also know that many political leaders, especially those in the opposition, are convinced that they are being bugged. By the way, [former Supreme Soviet Chairman] Stanislaw Shushkevich also claims that he was bugged during the election campaign...

[Yahoraw] Believe me, bugging is a very, very insignificant aspect of our work. It is common knowledge, however, that everyone is very concerned about this, since it affects a very private sphere...I can assure you that there are no unbridled activities in this regard on the part of the special services. Whereas earlier, permission could be given even by a KGB or Interior Ministry directorate chief, now, in accordance with the Law on Operational Investigative Activities, approval is required from a prosecutor. We request it only in serious cases—for example, if the interests of a criminal investigation require it, or if someone has committed, or is about to commit, a crime against the state...

This does not only relate, incidentally, to bugging. We have other means of conducting, as we say, operational-technical actions.

[Klaskowski] Like hidden microphones?

[Yahoraw] Yes, and other things...[passage omitted]

[Klaskowski] There is an opinion that the Russian special services are freely operating in Belarus, while we are simply looking on. What about our brotherly ties? Are we to suspect our great neighbors?

[Yahoraw] Everyone always wants to know what is going on in his neighbor's house. Both Russia and Belarus have their own strategic interests. However, our two special services have established good cooperation. We actively exchange information. I, for instance, have recently received several very interesting and useful reports from my Moscow colleagues. In the future, we plan to exchange permanent representatives so that an officer or even general of the Russian Federation Counterintelligence Service will work with us, and our man will be in Moscow. This will involve certain costs, but I am convinced that it will be beneficial and will allow us to keep in touch with each other more efficiently.

[Klaskowski] But...

[Yahoraw] Of course, we are not going to allow foreign special services to operate to the detriment of Belarus. We will protect the security of our state by all appropriate means. Moreover, Belarus also has its own interests with regard to Russia. We must work in this direction as well.

[Klaskowski] Also inside Russia?

[Yahoraw] To the required degree—yes.

[Klaskowski] What should be immediately and fundamentally changed within the KGB?

[Yahoraw] I do not believe that we should do away with everything. Still, first of all, we have to strengthen discipline, no matter how banal this may sound, and second, we have to restore and reinforce certain structures, primarily those aimed at protecting our economic interests and fighting corruption and organized crime.

Of course, we should not become so overzealous with these tasks that we neglect other services. The situation in these areas, however, is so dangerous that we must unite efforts with the Interior Ministry and other bodies.

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When, we hope to God, the situation improves, we will assign appropriate units to other tasks.

[Klaskowski] To what degree has corruption affected your institution?

[Yahoraw] None of our workers has soiled his hands in this. I can guarantee it. [passage omitted]

Parliament Speaker Seen Opposiing President

MK1808110194 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 5

[Valentin Zhdanko report from Minsk in the "Belorussia" column: "Contradictions Are Emerging Between the President and the Speaker. Mechislav Hryb Criticizes Alyaksandr Lukashenka's Political Program"]

[Text] Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who received carte blanche from the electorate at the recent presidential elections, is rarely criticized in Belorussia [Belarus] today. The leaders of opposition movements are waiting for the first results of the transformations undertaken by the president. But it is clear even now that first in the ranks of Lukashenka's active opponents will be parliament speaker Mechislav Hryb. Holding a neutral position during the elections, in his recent statements he unexpectedly criticized many fundamental directions of the presidential program (in so doing, Hryb however so far prefers not to mention Alyaksandr Lukashenka's name). Indicative in this respect was the speaker's latest appearance before Belorussian diplomats working abroad. It sounded as a clear dissonance in respect to the president's pronouncements and, according to many observers, came across as a kind of challenge to Lukashenka.

Thus, contrary to the president, who sees Russia as the sole foreign policy priority for Belorussia, Hryb noted that "it would be most reasonable for us to look for partners/friends along all lines without exception, on all vectors: in Russia, the United States, Poland, Germany, and so forth, giving preference not for considerations of blood affinity, but the size and sincerity of assistance provided."

Hryb also took up a definite position on the issue of the country's sovereignty. As though in response to the president, who—although he has moderated his sarcasm over the republic's independence—still allows, in the longer term, the merging of Belorussia and Russia, Hryb described the ideas of statehood, sovereignty, and independence as "the pivot of domestic and foreign policy." He especially stressed that no economic union must create conditions for Belorussia's being turned into a north-western part of Russia.

The speaker also challenged many other basic provisions of the presidential program. For instance, in response to the idea of socially oriented reforms, Hryb noted that "the social character of market reforms must not hinder them but, helping civilize the market, at the same time speed up its development." In contrast to the presidential proposal on state bilinguism, Hryb stated that no struggle for the rights of the Russian language can serve as justification for Belorussian losing its position.

The ground for possible confrontation between parliament and the president was also consolidated by a recent presidential edict whereby all Supreme Soviet property and the parliamentarians' financial and social provisions have been transferred under the jurisdiction of a newly created presidential business management. The Supreme Soviet Presidium immediately questioned the legality of this edict, while Hryb appealed to the Constitutional Court on this count.

It is quite likely that in the very near future, especially during the runup to parliamentary elections and as the country's economic situation worsens, Mechislav Hryb will be ever more openly acting on the political arena as a figure in opposition, and as an alternative, to the president.

Border Dispute With Lithuania To Be Resolved

WS1708123694 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] As was reported, Belarusian-Lithuanian talks on the problem of the railway stations and sections that are situated on the territory of one of the countries but subordinated to the other country's railways took place in Minsk on August 16. The talks resulted in signing a protocol according to which the sides have considered it possible from a technical point of view to complete the mutual transferring of the stations and sections by September 1. As Viktar Ozhigaw, representative of the Belarusian Railways at the CIS coordinating bodies, informed a BELAPAN correspondent, there currently are four such sections. Three of them are situated on the territory of Belarus: A section of 10.56 kilometers [km] on the line Hrodna-Parechye-Vilnius; a section of 7.4 km on the line Parechye-Druskininkai; and a section of 45.3 km on the line Krulevshchizna-Vilnius where the stations of Lyntupy and Hadutishki are situated. On the territory of Lithuania there is a section of 7.9 km on the line Lida-Vilnius.

In spite of the protocol, it is possible that the mutual transferring of the stations and sections will not take place before September 1. According to Viktar Ozhigaw, the Lithuanian side does not want to discuss the fate of the railway station of Hadutishki within the framework of these talks. In Ozhigaw's opinion, this may drag out the solution of the question under discussion until the completion of the Belarusian-Lithuanian talks on delimitation and demarcation of the frontier where Hadutishki is the only issue on the agenda.

Moldova

Lebed Opposes Dissolving 14th Army Command

AU1708173294 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/8/1994—Yesterday General Aleksandr Lebed held a press conference in

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Tiraspol. "The decision by the Russian Defence Ministry on dissolving the 14th Army Command I regard as the most adequate way of destabilizing the situation in the region and as a crime," stated General Lebed, adding that there is no official order on his dismissal. "If someone thinks that I'll become an indifferent observer or participant in the Army command he is wrong. I'll either resign or completely retire from the Army," said Lebed. He pointed out that according to the information he possesses, neither the General Staff nor the Russian infantry command has anything to do with this decision. Lebed believes that it was issued by persons who have direct contact with the defence minister. "Once the decision was made public, it shocked not only the Army but the Russian Foreign Ministry and Federal Counter-Intelligence Service as well," the general said. In his opinion, the consequences of enacting this decision and the Russian-Moldovan agreements on the 14th Army's withdrawal will lead to a catastrophe in the region. Lebed stated that as soon as the Tiraspol officials learned about the 14th Army reorganization, they prepared measures of taking over the military equipment. He said that the president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic Igor Smirnov left for Rabnita and instructed local military groups on immediate measures to occupy the huge munitions warehouses in Colbasna; the OSTK [Union of Workers' Groups] and other extremist organizations are working out similar plans. Lebed told reporters that the Dniester military groups are on alert and the state security structures have intensified their actions of guarding 14th Army equipment and proceeded to compile lists of local opponents in order to settle accounts. Answering a question by BASA which will be the 14th Army's reaction if Smirnov orders to occupy the military facilities, Lebed said: "Unlike him, I've already issued an order and I'll employ all means not to admit the weapons' capture." He stated that the 14th Army command liquidation and transmission of its empowerment to Division 59 will inevitably lead to chaos in the Army and destabilization of situation in the region. In his opinion, the division is not capable of substituting an army, providing peace keeping forces, and so forth. Also, Lebed mentioned that this decision could lead to squandering 14th Army properties. "Dniester is on the first place in the former USSR on the illegal trade of weapons, and these weapons will start 'talking' not only in other hot sports but firstly here. As a consequence, many well-equipped criminal groups will emerge and the region will be in their hands," stressed Lebed. Referring to the political situation in Moldova, Lebed mentioned that the conflict with Dniester was partly settled, but "there are enough statesmen on both Dniester banks who want the conflict to flare up again whom I consider raged dogs which have to be handled properly." Commenting on the results of the 10th round of Moldovan Russian negotiations, he said his attitude is negative: "To withdraw the Army necessary conditions had to be created which the negotiations failed to create...If the situation did not have an immediate solution, it had to be conserved, otherwise a new war would have broken out." Lebed stated that the most destabilizing factor is that the Tiraspol leadership is able to do everything not to permit the 14th Army withdrawal. Concerning the situation in Tiraspol, Lebed indicated that he never had the objective to involve in the political life of the region. [sentence as published] He said that the statements concerning him made in Moscow by the Tiraspol officials represent Tiraspol's attempts to decline any responsibility for the economic and political impasse. Referring to the prospects of his military career, the general declared that he did not receive concrete offers. "Sometimes, the media says I'm a pretender to the post of defence minister and state that this very fact caused the attempt to dismiss me as 14th Army commander. I can neither deny nor confirm such information," stated Lebed. He expressed his hope that the Russian Defence Ministry will annul its decisions: "I consider Pavel Grachev as a wise man and I don't exclude that he annuls the decision."

'Mafia' Waiting To Seize 14th Army Arms

MK1808084294 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 2

[Unattributed INTERFAX report in the "Information for Pondering" column]

[Text] Moscow—Vehicles of illegal arms traders have been spotted around the depots of the 14th Russian Army stationed in the Dniester Region. This was announced by Tiraspol Commandant Col. Mikhail Bergman. "The mafia is only waiting for the disbandment of the army to seize a huge amount of small arms and ammunition," he stressed. According to the Tiraspol commandant, mafia representatives have already had meetings with a number of ministers of the Dniester Moldovan Republic.

Decline in Industrial Production Continues

LD1708182894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1332 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The volume of industrial production decreased by 31.2 percent in Moldova compared to the same period last year.

The State Statistics Department told Interfax that over the first seven months of 1994 the republic manufactured products and carried out services worth a total of 1653.1 million lei, 568.7 percent more than last year. However, the actual volume of output decreased by over one-third.

Among the main factors hampering industrial enterprises are financial problems and a shortage of raw materials, say experts.

Output is falling at all factories engaged in any kind of processing of raw materials. Since the beginning of the year production of 111 goods out of the 120 registered,

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has dropped. Decline is particularly serious in light industry (54.6 percent) and in furniture manufacturing (42.8 percent).

Enterprises Resort to Bartering To Avoid Taxation

AU1708172994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/8/1994—Thirty percent of income taxes of Moldovan economic agents are not transferred into the budget; economic entities conceal their revenues through barter operations, BASA learned from sources of the Finance Ministry. In the first half of 1994, bartering accounted for 49 percent of all exports and 32 percent of all imports. Experts say that firms employ bartering on a large scale to avoid taxation considered by them burdening. On the other hand, economic agents do not have the necessary amounts of hard currency to make imports and Moldovan products are not competitive on the world market. Officials from the Finance Ministry recently stated that measures will be undertaken to decrease truck operations. Local observers note that according to a January 1994 government decision, barter transactions were forbidden except energy resources, raw materials, machinery and medicines but it is not respected.

First Bank With Foreign Capital Set Up

AU1708173094 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2000 GMT 15 Aug 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 15/8/1994—"Eximbank," the first Moldovan bank with foreign capital, has a statutory fund of $1 million. Its founders are the joint stock company "Seabeco Trade & Finance AG" (Switzerland), the state firm "Moldova-Exim" and the Moldovan-Swiss joint venture "Moldova Enterprises." Sources from the National Bank (BN) told BASA that "Eximbank" has been created on the basis of the BN Department for Currency Operations, until 1992 being a branch of the USSR's Foreign Economic Bank. Export-Import Bank's customers became the joint ventures, international missions to Chisinau, branches of international institutions etc. [sentence as published] The bank conducts import-export payment operations in Moldovan lei and foreign currencies, buying and selling of currency at the Interbank Currency Exchange auctions at buyer's request, offering of credits in Moldovan lei and foreign currency to legal entities, etc. The Bank's headquarters is located on Stefan cel Mare Avenue 5 (telephone. 262-583; 261-641; 260-480).

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Tajikistan

Television Director Assassinated in Dushanbe

LD1808064394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0625 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe August 18—41-year-old journalist Davlatali Rakhmonaliyev, director of the republican television programme, was assassinated here today.

ITAR-TASS was told at the Tajik Interior Ministry that he was shot dead at 7.30 a.m. local time (5.30 Moscow time) next to the entrance of his house when he was going to his office. The assassin escaped. The motives of the assassination are being investigated by local law enforcement bodies.

Davlatali Rakhmonaliyev was known as one of the ideological advocates of the restoration of the constitutional system in the republic. He headed the Kulyab television during the recent armed confrontation, which was a mouthpiece of the Kulyab movement of resistance to the opposition forces.

Regime's Persecution of Journalists Detailed

MM1708122594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Yelena Loriya: "On Paper It Was All Straightforward"]

[Text] Yesterday's news agency reports about the successful Moscow talks between Tajikistan Supreme Council Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov and Russian premier Viktor Chernomyrdin are clouded by a certain "misunderstanding" connected with the latest human rights violations in Tajikistan.

A statement by the Glasnost Defense Foundation says that on 9 August in Dushanbe Security Ministry personnel arrived without a warrant and arrested a reporter on the parliamentary newspaper SADOI MARDUM [title as transliterated] and well-known Tajik journalist Maksud Khuseynov [name as transliterated]. According to reports from the republic, they are charged with distributing the CHAROGI RUZ [title as transliterated] newspaper, which the present regime has "banned." The paper's chief editor told us that to his knowledge 10 people have been held on the same charge to date.

The Tajikistan official authorities' fight against this unwelcome publication began practically from the moment it appeared. The paper's staff have repeatedly been threatened or had their homes virtually wrecked. In 1993, for example, newspaper editor Dododzhon Atovullo [name as transliterated] was forced to move to Russia. In the spring of the same year the first issue of CHAROGI RUZ was published in Moscow, now as a Russian publication.

The Tajikistan general prosecutor initially sent the Russian prosecution service a letter asking it to ban CHAROGI RUZ. But after the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry Department for Humanitarian Ties intervened, the newspaper was left in peace.

As of today CHAROGI RUZ remains the only Tajik newspaper to express opposition opinion. According to Dododzhon Atovullo, since Rakhmonov came to power approximately 30 newspapers have been closed down, 150 Tajik journalists have had to emigrate, and 35 journalists have been killed (CHAROGI RUZ published a list of them in its third issue). Four journalists have been in prison for more than a year. According to the CHAROGI RUZ editor's information, they have yet to be officially charged.

Well-known journalist and rights activist Oleg Panfilov, who was forced to leave Tajikistan, has suggested in a piece in NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA that "the Russian Foreign Ministry should protest about the arrest of journalists accused of distributing 'banned literature,' namely the Russian newspaper CHAROGI RUZ."

Ministers View Moscow Talks, Security Situation

LD1708170694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1447 GMT 17 Aug 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature, compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy and edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] Parliament Chairman Emomali Rakhmonov who is staying on a brief working visit in Moscow held talks behind closed doors with Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. The results of the talks were not made public.

Simultaneously the negotiating teams, headed by Tajik Economy Minister Rustam Mirzoyev and Russian Deputy Prime Minister and Economy Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, held talks in the Russian capital.

Mirzoyev said that political processes are gaining pace in Tajikistan. In particular, presidential elections and a constitutional referendum will be held on September 25. He believed that this acceleration holds a promise of success for the reforms underway in Tajikistan and calls for closer cooperation with Russia in various fields.

Mirzoyev told Interfax that the two negotiating teams had confirmed their commitment to the last November's agreement on gradual merger of the monetary systems of the two countries. He said that Tajikistan was well aware of the complexity of the process and the government has set their eyes on closer economic ties with Moscow so as to earn Russian rubles rather than beg for them.

He did not say when the merger will start.

He strongly denied reports that Tajikistan had placed an order abroad for printing its national currency.

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Informed sources told Interfax that the Tajik negotiators had called for practical steps towards a merger of the two monetary systems, granting Dushanbe a credit for supplies of goods, notably fuels, and a deferment of debt payments to Moscow.

IF Note: A Russian delegation's expert who wanted to stay anonymous told Interfax that the Rakhmonov visit is largely an electioneering event and so Russia does not intend to hold substantial talks now on the merger of the two monetary systems.

Rakhmonov also had a meeting with Col. Gen. Andrey Nikolayev, chief of the Russian Federal Border Guards Service, to discuss preparation of the posts on the Tajik-Afghan border for the coming fall and winter.

Nikolayev said that 60

of the posts are deployed in a mountainous terrain where the delivery of foodstuffs and other supplies is difficult. He made it clear that despite the economic problems, the Tajik leadership are doing their best to keep the Russian border guards supplied with fruits, vegetables and building materials.

Rakhmonov said that if the Russian servicemen did not patrol the border, the situation would be much worse in the country. He added that the government is having both official and secret talks with the opposition aimed at normalizing the situation in the country.

Meanwhile, Gen. Anatoliy Kuptsov, Tajik deputy security minister, said that the situation in the country is under the government control. He did not rule out the possibility that certain forces, notably the opposition, might try to destabilize the country by making the referendum and presidential election impossible.

Kuptsov also spoke of ideological sabotage and dissemination of most unlikely rumors. In particular, he denied reports that the Tavildara District 300 km east of Dushanbe is under full control of the opposition fighters. He said that no fire exchanges in the areas of the villages of Semigancha and Teppaisamarkandi east of Dushanbe or explosion of an Interior Ministry's checkpoint in Gulbut, a Dushanbe suburb, or a pitched gun battle in the same area had taken place.

According to Kuptsov, the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Region in the Pamirs is under Dushanbe control but the economic hardships there, in particular high unemployment forced the local population to be engaged in smuggling weapons and narcotic drugs. Kuptsov said that the Russian border guards and law enforcement officers had seized 102.8 kg of raw opium from the local "businessmen."

Kuptsov was concerned over the political situation in Dushanbe. He said that underground opposition groups may try to thwart the referendum and election. Kuptsov made it clear, however, that the situation is under full control of his ministry which is taking various preventive steps.

IF Note: The Dushanbe City Soviet could not nominate a presidential candidate Wednesday because of lack of a quorum. Neither Emomali Rakhmonov nor former prime minister Abdumalik Abdullojonov, now Tajikistan's ambassador to Moscow who had been nominated by the Leninabad Region's council, has been officially registered. The presidential nominee needs at least 133,000 signatures, which is 5% of the electorate, to be registered.

Unmarked Aircraft Bomb Badakhshan Villages

MM1708140194 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by Kamil Bayalinov followed by comment by Oleg Panfilov under general heading: "Sign of the Times: Although There Are Bombs on the Aircraft There Are No Identification Markings"]

[Text] Tajik Government troops are carrying out a large-scale operation against the opposition military formations. The bloody war has again spilled over onto the territory of Gornyy Badakhshan, the majority of whose population, as we know, does not recognize the official authorities.

On 6 August this year peaceful Badakhshan villages were bombed in the region of the small centers of Tavil-Dara and Kalay-Khum. According to a surviving eye witness the bombs destroyed houses and killed peasants. He saw six people die as a result of the attack. The bombing began at 0600 hours and was repeated for three periods of one half hour each. Two MiGs and four helicopters without identification markings took part in the operation. It is curious that the strike was close to Kalay-Khum, where an Uzbek peacekeeping battalion is deployed.

According to the information of the investigation service of the Kirghiz newspaper VECHERNIY BISHKEK, exactly a year ago bomb attacks on the Khabur-Abadskiy pass in Gornyy Badakhshan were carried out under the same screen of secrecy. The Uzbekistan air force took part in the attack and the aircraft took off from the Uzbek "Guzel" airfield.

Russian, Kazakh, Uzbek, and Kirghiz military formations are in the conflict region. Recently the Russian military have been trying not to interfere in the disputes between the conflicting sides and have concentrated all their efforts on covering the border with Afghanistan. The Kazakh military contingent does not have any aircraft. It is also known for certain that the Kirghiz air force does not have anything to do with the bombing of the hamlets either. As far as is known, the Tajik Government Army does not have its own air force either.

The above facts give every grounds for believing that the fratricidal Tajik conflict has been joined by a third force. Incidentally, on the eve of the bombing two Asian

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presidents—Nazarbayev and Akayev, who were on vacation in Issyk-Kul—waited in vain for their Uzbek counterpart. But he failed to come, citing "unexpected difficulties...." [Bayalinov report ends]

NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA Commentary; Peacekeeping Inclined Toward Warmongering [subhead]

According to the information of the command of the CIS collective peacekeeping forces, right now there are military subunits of Russia, Kirghizia, and Uzbekistan in Tajikistan. Let us note that the participation of Kazakh subunits was debated for a long time in the parliament in Alma-Ata [Almaty] particularly after there were several clashes between soldiers and the local population in Badakhshan.

Naturally, for military reasons the exact numerical strength of the collective peacekeeping forces continent in Tajikistan will hardly be known. There are staffers of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, special detachments of the Tajik Security Ministry, and subunits of the Ministry of Internal Affairs operating there. According to various sources the numerical strength of the Tajikistan Defense Ministry varies depending on the situation. Now, for instance, an active draft to the subunits operating in the mountain regions is under way.

It is also known that the Tajikistan Defense Ministry has armored vehicles and military aircraft—helicopters and "SU" aircraft which were delivered to Dushanbe from Russia.

Back at the start of the government's operations against the opposition formations—in December 1992—Uzbekistan aircraft took part in the bombing of the Karatechina region settlements. But soon Islam Karimov somewhat altered his policy and even stated he did not understand the Dushanbe regime. No new instances were noted of the Uzbek Army's participation on the side of the Tajik Government. At least there have been no irrefutable evidence (as in 1992).

Most likely it may be supposed that Tajikistan aircraft is taking part in the bombing of the mountain regions. And that attests to the authorities' desire to destroy both the opposition formations and the population which supports them. Back on 26 July the settlements of Lodzhur and Ardankul were attacked, with about 60 people being killed and a large number of houses destroyed. Previously the opposition had destroyed several government helicopters.

In any case both Russia and Uzbekistan took part in the formation of the Tajik armed forces. So there is no need to speak of the aircraft's national allegiance.

Here is what must be said: The principle enshrined in the formation of the peacekeeping forces is more appropriate to offensive operations than to the situation which has taken shape in Tajikistan, where it is not invaders or saboteurs who are fighting but Tajik citizens who are fighting each other. It seems to me that without a political settlement the war in Tajikistan will go on forever.

Border Post on Afghan Border Under Fire

LD1808083894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0614 GMT 18 Aug 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe, 18 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—An observation post of the 12th border outpost of the Moskovskiy border detachment, which is situated on the Turk Heights, has been under periodical shelling from the territory of Afghanistan since yesterday. ITAR-TASS learned at the Command headquarters of the Group of Russian Border Troops in Tajikistan that eight missiles were fired at the post, two of them this morning.

The border guards are firing back. However, they have not managed to destroy all of the enemy's firing positions. No casualties are reported among the Russian servicemen.

According to the Russian Border Troops Command Headquarters, the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, including the Pamir stretch, remains tense but no other armed provocations have been registered in the past 24 hours.

State of Emergency Not Renewed Ahead of Polls

MM1808124194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 1

[INTERFAX report: "State of Emergency in Tajikistan Lifted 'Imperceptibly'"]

[Text] The state of emergency that has to all intents been in operation in Tajikistan since late 1992 has been lifted since mid-August, General Anatoliy Kuptsov, the republic's deputy security minister, told journalists.

In his view, the preparations for a referendum on a new constitution and for the presidential election scheduled for 25 September are the reason why the state of emergency is being lifted. There was no special edict lifting the state of emergency; the last edict extending it was valid through 12 August and is now void.

Dangers of New Rebel Offensive Viewed

MM1608141794 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 3

["Military Review" by Aleksandr Pelts: "Tajikistan: Opposition Opens 'Badakhshan Front'"]

[Text] The armed confrontation in Tajikistan has entered a new phase. Recent events in Tavildarinskiy Rayon clearly show that the opposition has become more active. As well as the Tajik-Afghan border, yet another seat of tension has arisen, this time inside the republic.

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Company Disappears at Midnight

It was almost like the opening of a detective novel. In the early hours of 22 July an entire Tajikistan national army subunit disappeared in the mountainous area near Tavildara [Tovil-Dora]. At first the republic Defense Ministry would not officially admit what was, frankly, an unprecedented incident. But it was impossible to conceal for long the disappearance of a company of soldiers and several officers (56 men in all).

In the republic capital, Dushanbe, there was talk of treachery on the subunit commander's part, and it was alleged that the Tajik servicemen had voluntarily gone over to the opposition side.

The Defense Ministry's reaction was not as sluggish as it had been at the outset: A large force was sent in to search for the captives. It was practically the next day that armored groups encountered the gunmen in the mountains. Local battles broke out, in the course of which both sides sustained considerable losses. (In the first week of the search the government forces' losses were 20 killed and around 10 missing).

It is highly indicative that no armed opposition grouping operating in the region claimed responsibility for taking prisoners. But the official organs were quick to announce that it was the work of field commander Khakim. But this has not yet been confirmed. In fact, there are at least several intransigent opposition groupings active in Tavildarinskiy Rayon (the names of another four active field commanders are known). Unfortunately this matter has not yet been clarified. According to one version, some Tajik servicemen were taken across to neighhboring Afghanistan a long time ago, and approximately 10 were shot.

"Peace Zone" or Opposition "Strongpoint"?

Let us remember that the main events associated with the search for the Tajik company took place on the territory of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast [GBAO], in inaccessible mountain areas. The remnants of the armed opposition's routed Dushanbe and Kafirnigan groupings took refuge there at the end of 1992. They still have their bases there, together with arms dumps and training centers for gunmen. In short, the entire autonomous oblast (and that is nearly one-third of the republic's territory) is effectively an opposition "strongpoint."

But the paradox is that it is the territory of the GBAO that has been declared a "peace zone" by the local leadership. The oblast leadership's special position was announced at the very start of the civil war in Tajikistan. What it is essential is that the local authorities adhere to the principle of "constructive democratic opposition" to the center.

What does this mean in practice? This can be judged by the GBAO democratic opposition forces' political council statement released in connection with the Tajik servicemen's capture. It claims that the company voluntarily went over to the armed opposition, that there was no point in searching for them on the territory of the GBAO, and that government forces' efforts to find the servicemen using force were effectively an "attempt to pressure the people of the autonomous oblast."

One might add to this the fact that the GBAO power structures (there is even a defense minister—"General Salam") are periodically in conflict with government forces. The latest instances are depressing: On 3 August local self-defense detachments blockaded the temporary border posts and took more than a dozen hostages, including Russian border guards (it took an ultimatum to get them released). Then, on 5 August, there was another attack on the border guards. One of them died in hospital from his wounds.

In short, the "layer cake" which gained notoriety in Afghanistan has taken shape on the territory of the autonomous oblast: Tajik government forces/Russian border guards/warring groupings of field commanders/"neutral" GBAO self-defense detachments.

What is the danger in this disposition of forces? In the first place, at the moment no one is able to establish with any accuracy the numerical strength of the armed opposition that is waging the struggle against the central authorities. The Tajikistan Defense Ministry believes it is a few hundred active gunmen. Where, then, do the GBAO self-defense forces that have been openly attacking border guards of late belong? Question number two: What do "several hundred" gunmen armed with mortars, recoilless guns, and portable antiaircraft systems, as well as automatic weapons constitute? Are they few or many? And why, as much as six months ago, was the number of active gunmen in, for example, the Garm group of rayons, according to official reports, not 100 or 200 but 2,000-3,000?

But, regardless of the numerical strength (try to count how many gunmen there are actually hiding among the mountains and gorges), one definite conclusion can be drawn: The "peace zone" declared by the autonomous oblast leadership aspires more to the role of a highly convenient bridgehead for the armed opposition to launch even more vigorous combat actions. And there is no doubt that it will use all its potential, which it has plenty of, to that end.

"'We Have the Forces To Be Able to Remove the 201st Division in a Few Hours'"

These words belong to someone called Rezvon, "defense minister" of the Tajik opposition active in neighboring Afghanistan (until recently this field commander was fighting inside Tajikistan).

We are not going to argue with the "minister." It is more important to know: What is the actual position of the Russian forces in connection with the new escalation of tension in Tajikistan?

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There are several dangers here. In the first place, there have been blatant attempts to draw Russian forces into the internal, inter-Tajik conflict. Second, both Russian border guards and soldiers of the 201st Division are already under pressure from "unknown friends." The point is that leaflets appeared in the Tajikistan capital when vigorous combat actions began in Tavildarinskiy Rayon. They advised all "Russian-speakers" not to leave their homes if the situation deteriorated. They addressed the military direct: Do not interfere; we will deal with things ourselves.

Of course, all this would be impossible without support for the internal opposition from abroad. It has strengthened considerably of late (KRASNAYA ZVEZDA has already talked about the organization of four "fronts" on the territory of Afghanistan) and has begun more organized actions.

What form will they take? The mojahedin are cunning and treacherous in the extreme. In view of the fact that it was Afghan instructors who "coached" the intransigent Tajik opposition's gunmen, they will endeavor to come up with some novel "surprises" for the government forces. The events in Tavildarinskiy Rayon confirm this. Clashes with internal opposition detachments have been going on for more than two weeks now. More and more government forces are being drawn into the "local" battles. It is not that easy, apparently, to "smoke" even 100 or 200 well-armed gunmen out of mountain gorges. The "external" opposition is "silent" for the time being. But who knows, maybe it is another plan: Tie up as many government forces as possible in the mountains and then launch a strike across the border?

Turkmenistan

Agreement Reached on Gas Pipeline Through Iran

LD1808110294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0815 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran August 18 ITAR-TASS—Iran and Turkmenistan are prepared to sign within weeks a final agreement on building a pipeline on Iranian territory for Turkmenistan's natural gas exports to Europe via Iran, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said in an interview with Tehran radio on Thursday.

The Iranian foreign minister, who has returned home from a week-long tour of five former Soviet republics in Central Asia, said the agreement would be signed during President Saparmurat Niyazov's visit to Iran in late August and early September.

According to specialists, the total cost of the pipeline, which will also cross Turkish territory and carry about 15 million cubic meters of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Europe, is estimated at two million dollars.

Velayati also said that in Almaty he discussed with Kazakhstan's leaders prospects for transporting Kazakh oil across the Caspian Sea and farther across Iran to the Persian Gulf.

The Iranian minister did not disclose any details of the project, but Tehran radio said representatives of member-countries of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation, whose conference ended in the Iranian capital on Wednesday, reached an agreement to establish a joint oil-transporting company with a capital of 10 million dollars and headquarters in Iran.

The Organisation of Economic Cooperation has as its members Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Tehran sees this regional organisation as the nucleus of a future common market of Islamic states.

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Armenia

President Returns From U.S. Visit

NC1808143094 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The Armenian presidential press service reported that Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan concluded his official visit to the United States and returned to Yerevan early this morning.

Ter Petrosyan, Ciller Discuss Ties, Karabakh

NC1708183894 Istanbul YENI GUNAYDIN in Turkish 13 Aug 94 p 15

[Text] Ankara—Fearing that the approaching winter might inflict enormous devastation on the country, the leadership of Armenia has started seeking peace with Azerbaijan on condition that Turkey establish diplomatic relations with Armenia.

Using various channels, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan has been sending messages to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller telling her: "If you establish diplomatic relations with us, we will withdraw from the Azerbaijani territory we have occupied, with the exception of the Lachin corridor."

It has been learned that Prime Minister Ciller has replied to the messages of the Armenian president through some as yet undisclosed mediators.

According to available information, this is how the preliminary contacts developed through mediators between Ciller and Ter-Petrosyan, who sent a message to Ciller from Washington with the following statement he made after meeting President Clinton during his official visit to the United States: "We want peace. It is not important who achieves it."

"We Will Withdraw, Except From Lachin"

The withdrawal of the Armenian Army from Karabakh and from Kubatly, Kelbadzhar, Agdam, and Shusha, which were occupied late and with the support of the Russian Army, are among the proposals by President Ter-Petrosyan which would form the basis for peace to be concluded between them and Azerbaijan.

It has also been learned that Ter-Petrosyan told one of the Prime Minister Ciller's mediators: "It is still too early to withdraw from Lachin. We cannot place this on the agenda at present."

In return for all these things, the Armenian president asked Turkey to establish diplomatic relations with his country. The Yerevan administration is counting on the fact that with Turkey's recognition of Armenia it will be able to ride out the approaching winter, which is expected to be far more severe and destructive than the previous one.

In a statement to the Armenian paper AZG some days ago following the exchange of messages with Ter-Petrosyan, Prime Minister Ciller said: "We are ready to establish all types of relations with this country provided it withdraws from Azerbaijan and permits the 1 million refugees to return to their homes."

As is already known, the establishment of diplomatic relations between Turkey and Armenia was placed on the agenda when the war was in its most intense phase in 1992. When, due to the efforts of the former foreign minister Hikmet Cetin Turkey, sent grain assistance to Armenia, the Armenians used it to feed their troops at the front and continued to occupy Azerbaijani territory.

Azerbaijan

Envoy Defends Russian Mediation in Karabakh

944K2119A Baku ZERKALO in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 3

[Interview with Valter Shoniya by E. Alyoglu; place and date not given: "The Alternative to Agreement Is Only War, Valter Shoniya, Russian Federation Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Warns"]

[Text] *Recently the end of the war in Karabakh has been linked increasingly with the signing of the so-called Grand Political Agreement. Its text has not been made public but it is assumed that it is built predominantly on the Russian plan for a settlement. Meanwhile, by all accounts, the development of events has entered a decisive phase. Radio Liberty has broadcast that secret Azerbaijani-Armenian negotiations are being conducted at the Meshcherino Holiday Hotel near Moscow and that "the parties are closer than ever to reaching agreement." Referring to the delicacy of the situation, the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs prefers not to reveal the progress of this dialogue, but it does not rule out a sensational conclusion for it. This entire process is attracting more and more attention in the West. Specifically, the U.S. news media have brought a wave of criticism crashing down on the Clinton administration in connection with the fact that, in their opinion, the president is making unduly big concessions to Russia in the Transcaucasus (for an article on this subject in THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR see page 1 of this issue).*

Questions concerning the Grand Political Agreement are answered by Valter Shoniya, Russian Federation ambassador to Azerbaijan.

[Alyoglu] Mr. Ambassador, will the so-called Grand Political Agreement be signed? Vladimir Kazimirov, special ambassador for the Russian Federation president, declared that the signing was expected at the end of August.

[Shoniya] God grant, as they say. I would like to share this optimism. But I cannot give any timeframe. V. Kazimirov has a clearer view of things; he is, after all, negotiating with the parties directly. Although I would

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refrain from speaking about a timeframe. It all depends on the parties to the conflict. Russia, the CIS, the CSCE—these are only mediators.

It sometimes happens that some interests have to be waived with a view to the strategic goal. How can the GPA [Grand Political Agreement] be called a capitulationist plan for Azerbaijan when painstaking and intensive work is still being performed on it. A variety of seers are already speaking about and criticizing what is as yet to be. This is simply astonishing. I have the impression that they are waiting for something that they can criticize.

Of course, Russia is being accused of neo-imperialist ambitions. Well, perhaps Russia is to blame to some extent because it also was part of the USSR, but the main responsibility for the fact that such a situation has been created today is, nonetheless, borne by the parties to the conflict, not Russia.

Some people, incidentally, are attempting to portray matters so that it is Russia that is managing the conflict. But this is a manifest absurdity and piece of nonsense. Have we been making decisions in the general staff of this state or the other: advance, retreat, or something of the sort. It is said that Russia has some magic wand. It will wave it, and it will all end.

This is all an obvious nonsense. It should not be thought that we have a short memory. We remember the public reports "about two nuclear bombs intended for Yerevan" and about the fact that "within two months [line illegible] maps." This all comes from extremist forces in Azerbaijan.

[Alyoglu] There are extremists in Russia also.

[Shoniya] I agree. There are extremists everywhere, in Russia also. They are in Armenia, too. These forces in Yerevan are also sounding off about Armenia's surrender to Azerbaijan. And the Russian plan is being criticized in both camps.

Where, generally, did you get the idea that this is a Russian plan. The plan for a peaceful settlement was proposed not only by Russia but also by the CSCE Minsk Group, and it will be discussed in Vienna on 16-17 August at a meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group. I pray to God that at least something comes of it. The alternative to agreement is only war.

[Alyoglu] How do you mean?

[Shoniya] Know-it-all's that are criticizing the GPA every which way are offering nothing intelligible. They are not saying: "My friends, this is what we propose." They want to get back at the negotiating table what was so brilliantly lost or, worse, as many here believe, sold.

[Alyoglu] You are speaking about compromise. This is fine. But Armenia is agreeing to no compromise. And, by all accounts, certain figures on the political Olympus of Russia believe that Azerbaijan should agree to compromise. I believe that Azerbaijan is ready to do so. But to agree that Shusha, Lachin, and Kelbadzhar should remain in Armenia or, if you will, the NKR [Nagorno-Karabakh Republic], you will excuse me, but....

[Shoniya] To resolve the Karabakh problem the parties should agree to mutual compromise and take account of each other's wishes.

[Alyoglu] Political observers are discussing John Maresca's proposals....

[Shoniya] John Maresca is not an official representative either of the United States [line illegible] CSCE. He does not represent anyone. And what he is doing is his own personal business.

[Alyoglu] Is this GPA that ideal?

[Shoniya] No, of course not. It has sufficient points and components that need to be discussed. But it also has at the same time opportunities for arrival at the level of a resolution of the problem. And the draft plan of a peace agreement presented by Russia and the CSCE Minsk Group has been discussed a thousand times. Guarantees of an agreement on a cease-fire and the withdrawal of the belligerents so that they can no longer shoot at each other are needed first and foremost. This should be followed by the liberation of the occupied territories—the territories that are outside of Nagornyy Karabakh and that have nothing to do with it. This should then be followed by a lifting of the blockade, the return of the refugees to their land, and the start of negotiations on determination of the status of the NKR.

[Alyoglu] Was not this what John Maresca was talking about?

[Shoniya] Not at all. J. Maresca is putting the cart before the horse. If you start with this, of course, the cart will go nowhere, and it cannot be ruled out that it will come to a standstill altogether.

[Alyoglu] What, for all that, does the GPA represent and who will sign it? You are accusing "know-it-all's" that have not seen the GPA with their own eyes but are criticizing it. Lest I appear to be just such a "know-it-all," I would like to know how many points this GPA has, what their content is, and whether there are any annexes?

[Shoniya] All that I have been talking about is provided for and reflected in the Grand Political Agreement. Aside from the main text, it does have annexes, on which intensive work is being performed. How long this process will last, it is very hard to say. Negotiations on this issue are continuing in Moscow at this time. We should not, in my opinion, be running ahead of the train and prophesying.

[Alyoglu] Meaning?

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[Shoniya] Meaning that as the parties agree, that's how it will be. We are imposing nothing on anyone. Russia is putting on the table a compromise solution and inviting the parties to the conflict to the process of the achievement of the long-awaited peace. This is what Russia is doing, and we could, please, do without terms like "neo-imperialists," "aggressors," and so forth. What kind of imperialists are we.... A bloody conflict is raging in proximity to Russia's borders, and it should look on it in silence? Were Russia a neo-imperialist, it would not be aspiring to the speediest peaceful settlement of the conflict. On the contrary, it would be doing everything to see it grow. In the majority of cases it is those that are opposed to the GPA that are the neo-imperialists. This would suit some people, evidently, and on the pretext of criticism, they are advocating neo-imperialism.

[Alyoglu] You are serious?

[Shoniya] How else to explain their actions? They are shouting about neo-imperialism, thereby supporting a continuation of the armed conflict. Perhaps they are linked with neo-imperialist forces in Russia. How would I know?

Oil Company Official on Deal With U.S., Karabakh

NC1808080594 Ankara TURKISH DAILY NEWS in English 12 Aug 94 p A2

[Report by Ugur Akinci—punctuation as published]

[Text] Washington—Ali Riza Bozkurt, chairman of United BMB Group (Birlesik Muhendisler Burosu—BMB) today signed a production-sharing agreement in Washington with Ilham Aliyev, son of Azerbaijan's President Geydar Aliyev and the vice president of the State Oil Company of Azerbaijan (SOCAR). Also present at the signing ceremony was Azeri Ambassador to Washington Akif Pashayev, various officials from the Azeri Embassy, and various members of the U.S. Congress including Jim Saxton of New Jersey.

In his opening address Saxton praised Bozkurt, who is also from New Jersey, and said that Bozkurt was "the first to sign an agreement with Azerbaijan, an agreement that will help all parties. I am proud that an American from New Jersey is setting the example of how we are still the best in the international marketplace."

Bozkurt said that this production-sharing agreement was important due to three important factors.

"1) This agreement shows that Azerbaijan is willing to cooperate with the outside world to develop its oil fields and the country.

2) Azerbaijan showed the importance it gives to the United States by choosing an American company over the others.

3) Contrary to all the rumors, Azerbaijan showed that it will finalize a deal when you talk Azerbaijan's language, know their ways and respect the Azeri culture."

In 1991, Bozkurt's BMB also signed a lucrative $600 million deal with Kazakhstan to build the Aktubinks power station in return for the operating rights to three oil fields. He also signed the $360 million Sabiya Power Station project agreement with Kuwait in February 1990.

During the construction of the plant, he was captured as a hostage by the Iraqi army and was held prisoner for three weeks in Baghdad.

Bozkurt told TDN [Turkish Daily News] that Overseas Private Investment Corporation's (OPIC) "political risk guarantee" has been instrumental and crucial in concluding the deal with Azerbaijan. OPIC has committed more than $1.5 billion to American companies doing business in Russia and the newly independent states.

Criticizing Turkey's way of doing business, Vozkurt, with a sarcasm he did not attempt to conceal, said: "Turkey is very rich. The U.S. is very poor. That's why Turkey will not guarantee any deals Turkish companies negotiate with Azeris. Instead, Turkey just extends the whole amount. The U.S., in contrast, says, 'Sorry, I can't give you money to do business but I can insure it against risks.' Why? Because Americans do not have as much money as Turkey."

Despite various questions, the journalists invited to the signing ceremony were unable to learn the quantitative dimensions of the deal in question.

The BMB press release said: "It is estimated that the oil field will yield 30 to 60 million barrels of oil with the first two wells becoming operational in the third and fourth years of the three-phase program."

But other than that, it was not possible to ascertain the total dollar values and volumes involved. Riza Oguz Emek, BMB's project manager who previously worked for TUPRAS [Turkish Oil Refinery Company] and set up the Kirikkale Refinery, said that the agreement was too complicated to be reduced to simple figures.

Behind the BMB officials' reluctance to talk to the press about any concrete figures was probably their past uncomfortable experience in Kazakhstan when a deal, initially announced to stand at $1.2 billion, turned out to be worth "only" $600 million—which was of course still far more than what any Turkish company could accomplish in Kazakhstan.

One more reason for such reticence was provided for TDN by Bozkurt who said that any concrete figures might well be used against Azerbaijan by other oil companies which are currently negotiating with SOCAR in Houston, Texas, for offshore oil development rights in the Caspian Sea. Among the companies in question are Pennzoil, BP and TPAO [Turkish Oil Company].

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"The development of oil fields east of Baku will create employment opportunities for 500 workers," Bozkurt added.

"We expect a total of 600 million barrels to be produced. The production-sharing agreement between BMB and Azerbaijan varies depending on different volume-targets reached. The first six to 12 months will go to initial feasibility studies."

Elchibey's reluctance

Bozkurt mentioned that his efforts were a part of the general process of establishing an "oil road" (like the Silk Road of the past) between Azerbaijan and the rest of the world. "Whether the countries of the region realize it or support it or not, there is in effect a virtual pipeline established in the region. Last year 3 million tons of oil moved by various means from Caucasus and Central Asia to Europe. Many private Turkish companies are already transporting oil from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Azerbaijan although the Turkish Government neglects then completely."

Bozkurt recounted for TDN an earlier encounter with the previous president of Azerbaijan, Abulfaz Elchibey, who did not strike Bozkurt as an enterprising soul."

When I suggested that we have a pipeline that passes through Armenia, the Armenians said they were ready to make a deal. Although they were in the middle of war, they even set a date to sign the agreement. It was Nov. 10, 1992, if I remember correctly. But Elchibey declined.

He said, 'My people will kill me if I sign a pipeline deal with Armenia.' I couldn't believe him. I said, 'Sir, the Azeri people might do that if—on the contrary—you don't sign with the Armenians.' Why should people kill a leader who ends a war with a very lucrative agreement that would benefit the whole region? Armenians would receive a symbolic fee just like Turkey receives from the passage of Iraqi oil through its territory. Azerbaijan would be the real party who would profit from such a pipeline. But I couldn't convince Elchibey," he said.

Elchibey was toppled by a military coup in 1993 that ended up bringing President Aliyev to power.

Aliyev: Relations with US Thawing

In an interview with TDN Ilham Aliyev, 33, who visited the United States as the special envoy of President Aliyev, said that his appeal to speed up the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe's (CSCE) Minsk Group process for a lasting solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh issue was received positively during his talks at the State Department. Aliyev said he met with Mr. Hurts, NIS Desk, State Department; Rosemary Forsythe, NSA Staff, White House; Bill Whiteman of the Department of Energy; and Democratic Senator David Pryor of Arkansas.

Aliyev admitted that Russia was putting pressure on Azerbaijan to go on without the CSCE. He said, however, they were determined to proceed along the CSCE path. Concerning the fact that the United States is still supporting Armenia and maintaining an embargo on Azerbaijan per Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, Aliyev told TDN: "Things won't change overnight. Armenians have a strong lobby in the United States. But despite that, within the last four or five months, we see signs that the U.S. is warming up to the Azeri arguments. There are more pro-Azeri coverage and editorials in the U.S. press."

"The U.S. is gradually changing its policy towards Azerbaijan," Aliyev said.

"The embargo (on Azerbaijan) is really up to the Congress. Today, by signing this agreement with an American company in Washington, we proved that Azerbaijan is open to the outside world. Azerbaijan is open to America. We consider the production-sharing BMB deal as an important first step taken towards (normalizing our relations with) the United States," he added.

President Aliyev to visit US

Ilham Aliyev confirmed for TDN that his father Geydar Aliyev would visit New York in September to address the U.N. General Assembly. At this time the president's itinerary does not include Washington.

Ilham Aliyev graduated from Moscow University with a degree in international affairs and a master's degree in history. He taught at the university from 1985 until 1990, when he became a private entrepreneur in Azerbaijan. He is in charge of foreign economic relations for SOCAR as well as being one of the principal negotiators for all agreements that Azerbaijan signs.

Ter-Petrosyan also appeals for more business

Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, who is visiting Washington on an official state visit, also made the rounds of Washington asking for more business from American businessman.

At a morning meeting he attended at OPIC headquarters, Ter-Petrosyan outlined major economic reforms undertaken by Armenia after the devastating earthquake of 1988 which is said to have wiped out one-third of Armenia's industrial base.

The meeting was attended by representatives of dozens of well-known American firms including Digital, Bechtel, and Westinghouse.

OPIC President Ruth R. Harkin, who introduced Ter-Petrosyan said: "Armenia mines copper, gold and lead. Its industrial sector is diverse and produces machinery, electronic products, chemicals and textiles. It is a land with good investment opportunities."

Ter-Petrosyan invited Americans to take advantage of various opportunities that exist in Armenia.

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For example, he said that "a two-year tax holiday is available to new enterprises with foreign participation, and significant tax breaks are available to companies with foreign investment. There are no restrictions governing currency conversion or transfer and all exports from Armenia are duty free."

The Armenian president also noted that foreign investors would find a tremendous potential in "military conversion" since Armenia currently ranks fourth among the republics in defense-related industries, after Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Aliyev on Energy Cooperation With Turkey

944K2118B Baku AZERBAYDZHAN in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[AZERTADZH report: "Geydar Aliyev: The Republic Is Giving Preference to Cooperation in the Energy Sphere"]

[Text] Relations of the power systems of the Azerbaijan and Turkish republics, satisfaction with the help of the friendly country of the fuel and energy requirements of the Nakhchyvan Autonomous Republic, and cooperation in the sphere of the development of Azerbaijan's deposits of oil and gas and their shipment were the main topic of a conversation between Geydar Aliyev, president of Azerbaijan, and Veysel Atasoy, minister of energy and natural resources of Turkey, who is visiting Baku.

In the course of the interview V. Atasoy observed that during his official visit to Baku negotiations connected with the energy sectors had continued and that the need for the further development of contacts in this sphere had been emphasized once again.

The head of state of Azerbaijan assured his guest that he would make use of all opportunities for the expansion of Azerbaijan's cooperation with the fraternal country both in all sectors of the economy and in power engineering. He observed that the Azerbaijan side hopes that the protocol that it is intended to sign with the Turkish Republic in the energy sphere will exert a positive influence on satisfaction of the fuel and energy requirements of the Nakhchyvan Autonomous Republic, which is currently blockaded.

Speaking of the broad prospects of cooperation between our countries, G. Aliyev said that even after the settlement of the Karabakh conflict by political means and the establishment of peace in the region, for the sake of dependable supplies of fuel and energy to Nakhchyvan we will give preference to the further development of our relations with the Turkish Republic in the energy sector. This corresponds to the interests of both countries.

Having broached questions connected with the exploitation of the oil and gas of the republic and their shipment, the president of Azerbaijan announced that cooperation with Turkey in this sphere would continue within the framework of the negotiations conducted with the consortium of overseas oil companies. G. Aliyev observed also that these negotiations were continuing at the present time in the American city of Houston and that they had reached the stage of preparing draft agreements. The president also said that even before the start of the negotiations in Houston we had reached agreement on the main issues and had signed a protocol.

In the opinion of the president of the republic, this document confirms that the negotiations are close to completion and that work on the draft contracts may commence. The head of state announced that he hopes that agreements on other matters also will be signed very shortly in Houston with the consortium of overseas oil companies.

Having touched in the conversation on the negotiations on the joint exploitation of oil deposits and shipment, Geydar Aliyev observed that in the course of them a draft corresponding to the interests of the friendly country had been defended. He asked his guest to communicate to the leaders of the state and government of Turkey, Azerbaijan's decisive position.

Present at the meeting were Fuad Guliyev, first deputy prime minister of the republic, State Counselor Vakhid Akhundov, Alten Karamanoglu, ambassador of the Turkish Republic in Baku, and other officials.

Aliyev Reports on 'Worsening' Economy

944K2118A Baku GUNAY in Russian 13 Aug 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Reform of the Economy Is Not Showing the Anticipated Improvement"]

[Text] "Despite the measures that are being adopted for the reform of the economy of the republic and its big industrial and agrarian potential, the anticipated economic upturn in Azerbaijan has not begun. Moreover, the situation is deteriorating even," Geydar Aliyev, Azerbaijan's president, declared at a meeting with the president's staff at which the economic situation in the republic was discussed.

It was practically affirmed at the meeting that the economy of the republic is in a state of crisis that is encompassing all the main sectors of the economy. In the first six months production declined 25 percent, national income, 24.5 percent. There was a particularly sharp fall in the iron and steel industry, mechanical engineering, construction, and chemical industries. Oil production constituted 4.7 million tonnes, which was 400,000 tonnes less than in the analogous period of last year. The reduction in supplies of petroleum for refining led to a shortage of fuel in the republic itself and has jeopardized

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fulfillment of the republic's currency plan because of the shortfall in the supply of diesel fuel to the countries of the CIS and the far abroad.

Cited as being among the principal factors of the current situation were price liberalization at a time of the state monopoly on property, the disintegration of the ruble zone, and the introduction by republics of the former Union of national currencies without the implementation of coordination measures for their conversion, which brought about the arrears problem, and also the severance of business ties, the constant shortage of raw material and intermediate products, and difficulties in the sale of output. An ever increasing number of enterprises has been forced to cut production, using 30-40 percent of available capacity. The situation is being made worse by problems of the insolvency of enterprises of Russia, where the product of Azerbaijan's enterprises is primarily marketed, and this has brought about surplus stocks of products. The accounts receivable of enterprises and organizations constitute approximately 88 billion manat, the trade liabilities have reached 220 billion manat. Credit provision in the economy increased from 91 billion manat at the start of the year to 267 billion as of 1 July.

The conferees see immediate privatization as the way out of the current situation, believing that this will make it possible to improve the extremely difficult financial situation of the republic and to create a reserve of credit resources. It was proposed to exempt from tax the profits that are plowed back into production and also to cancel as of 1995 the compulsory government commission system.

In G. Aliyev's opinion, not only a precise substantiated program, but also a mechanism for its realization are essential for surmounting the severe crisis. It must make provision for strict measures to put an end to sabotage in the way of implementation of the reforms and also corruption and crime. As far as privatization is concerned, it, in his opinion, should be carried out in phased fashion and with the enlistment in this process of the whole population of the republic to avoid a social explosion and confrontation in society.

Georgia

Press Office Accuses Separatists of 'Genocide'

LD1708132494 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russia 0823 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Tbilisi [no date as received]—The Georgian head of state's press secretariat reports that the Gudauta separatists are continuing the policy of genocide against the population of Georgian villages in Abkhazia's Gali Rayon. The separatists are plundering villages, deporting some people by force, and torturing others to death.

In some cases, such actions by the separatists have been prevented thanks to intervention by the command of the Russian Federation's blue helmets. However, the number of such incidents in the areas controlled by the so-called Abkhaz police is rising.

Notadze Urges Struggle Against Russian Imperialism

MK1808104794 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 Aug 94 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric]

[Text] "We are interested in seeing peace and calm in the Northern Caucasus because the Georgian people are linked with the peoples of the Northern Caucasus by long-standing historical and cultural traditions," Nodar Natadze, the chairman of the People's Front of Georgia has stated. He thinks the processes taking place in the Northern Caucasus give ground for fearing a possible conflict injurious to the entire Caucasus. Natadze urged the peoples of the Caucasus to unite and struggle against Russia's imperialist aspirations in the Caucasus. He thinks that in 1992-1993, Russia's reactionary forces drew the peoples of the Northern Caucasus into the Abkhaz conflict seeing to it that representatives of these peoples participated in the struggle against Georgia.

Two hundred fighters from Abkhazia have left for Chechnya to give support to President Dudayev. According to various Georgian official and nonofficial sources, the overwhelming majority of them are "citizens of the Abkhaz nationality" who in 1992 and 1993 underwent special training in Groznyy and participated in military operations against Georgian government troops.

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Estonia

Russian Demarcation of Border Continues

WS1808080494 Tallinn BNS in English 1805 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Tallinn, Aug 17, BNS—Rein Orav, the acting chief of Estonia's southeast border guard, told BNS that Russia had by today marked the positions of 25 border posts near the Vommorski border station on the temporary line between the two states and cleared an about 100 meters long and 20 meters wide strip of the border of trees.

There's been no sign of work in other sections of the southeastern border so far, he said. Most of the work is being done by Russian civilians supervised by officers. Russian topographers, too, are working on the borderline. Russian border guard started work in preparation for marking off the Estonian-Russian border last Thursday.

Tarmo Kouts, the director general of the Border Guard Department, earlier told BNS with reference to a Russian border guard officer that Russia intends to make preparations for marking off the border in three directions: from Lake Peipus to Varska, from Dubka to Ulyantsevo, and from Ulyantsevo to the place where the Estonian, Russian, and Latvian borders converge.

Preliminary information is that Russia is planning a 15 to 20 meters wide border strip. The border is to be defined by 80-centimeter wooden posts. "As we understand it, this shows that the border isn't going to be a standard one," Kouts commented.

Preparations for marking off the border are directed by a commission headed by Victor Zvonkov, the deputy head of Russia's Pskov regional administration. Kouts said the commission includes geodetic surveyors, cartographers, and woodsmen. The inclusion of surveyors and cartographers in the commission shows that Russia means business on the border, Kouts added.

Maj. Gen. Aleksey Kozhevnikov, the deputy chief of Russia's border guard, announced the beginning of work on the Estonian-Russian border Aug. 10.

Russian Envoy Says Nuclear Rod Removal To Begin

WS1708134194 Tallinn BNS in English 1311 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, Aug 17, BNS—Russian commander of the Paldiski nuclear facilities Aleksandr Olkhovikov today gave Juri Tikk, the special representative of the Estonian Government in Paldiski, a memorandum according to which the removal of nuclear fuel rods from one of the two reactors in Paldiski is to start either Aug. 24 or 25.

The equipment and machinery needed for dismantling one reactor has already arrived in Paldiski. Tikk told BNS the five containers required for dismantling the other reactor will be brought to the town only when the removal of fuel rods from it begins. A 25-man group of Russian specialists to take charge of the dismantling operation arrived a week ago. [passage omitted]

Swedish Navy To Blow Up Mines Off Coast

BR1808095794 Stockholm SVENSKA DAGBLADET in Swedish 14 Aug 94 p 12

[Lars Porne report: "Navy To Blow Up Mines on the Estonian Coast"]

[Text] The Swedish Navy will send a squadron of five to six minesweepers to Estonia to blow up old mines, a hazard to navigation, especially in the approach to Paldiski, a former secret naval base from the time of the Soviet Union.

The mines were found during a two week long expedition made by the Ocean Surveyor of the SGU [State Geological Survey].

Blowing-Up Is the Next Step

The expedition, which ended on Sunday [14 August], was carried out by the Navy and the SGU in the context of Sweden's sovreignty support to Estonia.

"Our next step will be to blow up the mines," says Captain Lennart Danielsson.

The Estonians wanted help to blow up mines already in September, but it now seems to be October, possibly in connection with a Swedish naval visit.

"Our task is to help Estonia to develop a port for exports in Paldiski, a port that is safely accessible without risk of mines.

There are plans to develop Paldiski, which has been vacated by the Russians, into an important port for civilian use.

No Tunnels Found

The Soviet naval base on this site was closely guarded and out of bounds also for the Estonians.

It was speculated that the Russians had mini-submarines stationed here, but according to a Russian source there were only two mini-submarines, both in such a poor condition that they were never launched. Berndt Kjellin, one of the participants in the SGU-expedition claims that the Estonians also talked about tunnels leading out from the naval base for the release of submarines into the Baltic.

"We saw nothing of this, nor any traces of submarines," he added. "We were not specifically looking for traces of submarines, but of course we study everything we can find on the bottom."

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Modern Equipment

The Ocean Surveyor has advanced technical equipment which includes a side scan sonar (a side-scanning submarine radar) with extra high resolution to detect even the smallest objects on the seabed.

The Estonian Navy made an initial request for the survey of three smaller areas in the Paldiski bay, but extended this later to cover the bay as a whole.

The expedition also studied a sector in the Northwest, known as a rallying point for the Soviet warships and waters of "monkey business" according to the Estonians.

"There we found traces of a mine line and mine anchors and there were also mines next to the line."

"I am not able to say if these were from the Second World War."

Estonian Observers

Ocean Surveyor had Estonian observers from the Estonian geological survey, navy and coastguard on board.

The Estonian coastguard took part in the expedition with a coastal patrol vessel, which served as a plattform for a sea-owl.

The Estonian navy has three smaller vessels. One of them comes from Denmark and two from Germany.

Latvia

Parliament Debates New Government, Program

LD1808101994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 0900 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpts] An extraordinary session of the Saeima is taking place today. On the agenda are a report on the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers and its intended program of work.

Two breaks in the session have already been taken. The first break was requested after Filips Stroganovs, chairman of the Equal Rights group, proposed to renew the validity of the mandates temporarily withdrawn from some deputies. As this issue has not been included on the agenda it was rejected, but the Equal Rights group asked for a half-hour break.

The deputies have already been acquainted with the composition of the Cabinet of Ministers formed by Andrejs Krastins, and the new government's program. [passage omitted]

Discussions are now under way in the Saeima and because their duration is not limited, it is difficult to predict when the vote of confidence in Krastins' government will take place. But as Maris Budovskis, candidate for the post of welfare minister, told Latvian radio, if the government formed by the Latvian National Independence Movement is not approved by the Saeima, it will act as a shadow cabinet.

'Latvia's Way' Will Not Support New Government

WS1708133994 Tallinn BNS in English 1004 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Riga, Aug 17, BNS—The Saeima (parliament) Latvia's Way (LW) faction will not support the new Latvian government, formed by Andrejs Krastins, LW faction Head Andrejs Pantelejevs told BNS on Tuesday.

The LW announcement, spread on Tuesday, says that such a decision was taken because the Latvian National Independence Movement (LNNK) rejected the LW proposal on coalition formation. The LNNK board and council's views do not correspond to promises, given by the formers of the government, therefore it is not clear who will take up responsibility for the new government's activities.

Pantelejevs said the LW could not accept Krastins' as saying that the citizenship law must not be reconsidered and agreement with Russia must be ratified, but the LNNK board and council have never supported such affirmations.

The LW announcement says the declaration on the Cabinet's activities and the statements in the press do not respect the LW's political demands. Besides, the government declaration mentions different aims but does not provide for their implementation mechanism. The LW is still ready to form coalition for a strong government or take up formation of a minority government, says the announcement.

Rubiks Wins Parliament Seat While in Prison

LD1608215594 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Mandate number 100 for Latvian Saeima deputy was today given to Alfreds Rubiks, former first secretary of the Latvian Communist Party [LCP] Central Committee, who is currently on trial and in prison. When there was an adjournment in the session of the Supreme Court, which is hearing the criminal case against the former LCP leaders Rubiks and Ojars Potreki on charges of attempting to overthrow state power in Latvia, the mandate was presented by Filips Stroganovs, leader of

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the Equal Rights faction in the Saeima, and Saeima Deputy Larisa Lavina. The mandate was presented with the permission of Fricis Jaunbelzejs, chairman of the court.

Official Announces Plan for 'Mass Privatization'

LD1708215194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 2100 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The head of the Latvian Privatization Agency has disclosed a plan for starting the mass privatization of state enterprises. In August and September this year, 20 state sites in the first list will be privatized and 17 in the second. They include such well-known enterprises in Latvia as the Valmiera factory making fire-fighting equipment, the Straume plant, the [name indistinct] electric light-bulb factory, and other enterprises. By a decision of the Council of Ministers, 19 state wood processing plants will soon be privatized as well. Druvis Skulte, minister of state for privatization, announced that the privatization of the state Latvian Petroleum enterprises is also going ahead. By his prediction, by the end of this year only 20 percent of shares in these enterprises will remain state-owned, and that means that the state is in fact to refrain from controlling the fuel market in Latvia.

LETA Transformed Into Joint-Stock Company

WS1808140794 Riga LETA in English 1350 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The newspaper LABRIT reports on changes in Latvia's Telegraph Agency LETA, which under the government's resolution is transformed into joint-stock company. It will be governed by a board with Minister for Special Tasks Edvins Inkens as chairman and deputy Olafs Pulks. To the post of general director of the joint-stock company LETA the board appointed Janis Galvins who had worked before as head of the governmental information agency. The new leadership is going to extend the range of information topics and the new director promised to return once bright position of the LETA agency.

Lithuania

Accord With Belarus on Rail Handover Not Finalized

WS1808082294 Tallinn BNS in English 1618 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 17, BNS—The head of the Lithuanian Rail Transport Department, Stasys Labutis, denied reports that Lithuanian and Belarusian transportation officials agreed to complete by Sept. 1 the handover of Lithuanian railroad tracks on Belarusian territory to Lithuania and vice versa.

Officials met in Minsk Tuesday, to discuss the technological servicing of Belarusian tracks in Lithuania and Lithuanian tracks on Belarusian territory. There are 9 kilometers of such tracks in Lithuania and 63 kilometers in Belarus.

Belarusian Deputy Foreign Minister Stanislaw Ahurtsow told reporters after the meeting that agreement was reached to complete the mutual handover of tracks by Sept. 1.

Labutis said Lithuanian railroad officials made no promises and only agreed that a possibility to hand over the tracks by Sept. 1 exists. In an interview with BNS, the Lithuanian official said decisions have to me made "on a higher level."

Lithuanian and Belarusian officials agreed to set up 5 working groups by Aug. 20. The groups will deal with both technical and social problems related to the handover. According to a protocol signed Tuesday in Minsk, train traffic will not be stopped after the tracks are handed over.

In Labutis' words, Belarus thinks the handover can be carried out by railroad administrations of both countries. Belarusian railroad officials already have such authorizations, but no such right has been given to Lithuanian railroad authorities. Labutis said the Minsk meeting was entirely devoted to technical matters, with an aim to prepare tracks for the handover.

Lithuania and Belarusian transportation officials are scheduled to meet again in Vilnius Aug. 20.

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